High court asked to reopen Kuratong case

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inq7.net
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001 ★★★ 46 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 270 ₱15

26

Retired general tells Lacson: Go on leave

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

A RETIRED general and former defense secretary yesterday said the Senate should advise Sen. Panfilo Lacson to go on leave until the inquiry on his alleged involvement in drug trafficking and other high crimes had been completed.

Fortunato Abat, now chair of the Federation

RETIRED/ A12

Ping hearing eclipses Erap trial

By E. O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A bigger blockbuster in the making.

On the same stage but with a different cast of characters, the

PING/ A12

TALO ANG TELENOVELA

Lacson: Ong not credible to US officials

Corpus accused of withholding info

By Armand Nocum and Christine Herrera

EMBATTLED Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday cast a cloud of doubt over the credibility of ex-undercover agent Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, by making public a report indicating that US customs officials found her to be a "witness without credibility."

In his first confrontation with his accusers, the neophyte senator also issued a blanket denial regarding all their charges, but stopped short of taking military intelligence chief Victor Corpus up on his challenge to make the denials under oath.

"Why will I (make the statements under) oath? I am not the one on trial here. I am a member of the Senate," he told the INQUIRER.

In the fifth Senate hearing on allegations linking him to money laundering and drug trafficking, Lacson confronted Corpus with a report that he said was authored by Col. Mario Chan, head of a joint military and police intelligence team that spent a month in California investigating Lacson's alleged foreign accounts.

The June 28, 2001 report in Lacson's possession said "the statements given by Ms Mary Ong in Hong Kong and in the

LACSON/ A13

BODY language of Mary Ong on her way to the restroom speaks eloquently to the distant Supt. John Campos, who with Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, now stands accused by his ex-lover. JESS YUSON

JESS YUSON

SEN. LACSON: She fell for this technique.

Ping produces bank letter to back claim

By Armand Nocum

SEN. PANFILO Lacson yesterday produced a letter from a Citibank regional officer supporting his claim that he did not maintain bank accounts in its New York, California, Hong Kong and Ontario, Canada, branches.

Lacson showed the Aug. 9, 2001 letter from Kenneth Fagan, regional officer of Citibank in Singapore, to Col. Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), during Lacson's first appearance at the Senate hearings on his alleged criminal activities.

Corpus claims that Isafp has uncovered $211 million of Lacson's deposits in bank accounts abroad, allegedly representing his earnings from drug trafficking, kidnapping and smuggling.

"If I were a lawyer defending a client being confronted by Corpus, (Mary) Ong, (Angelo) Mawanay, (Danny) Devnani, I would without hesitation tell the judge, 'No cross your honor,' and I will rest my case," said Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

But Corpus related to him the case of Raul Salinas, older brother of former Mexican President Carlos Salinas, in which Citibank denied the existence of accounts under the name of Raul. *(See related story)*

"But after they were investigated, it turned out that (Raul) Salinas was guilty of money laundering in Citibank," Corpus said.

In turn, Lacson reiterated his challenge to Corpus to produce "validated, authenticated evidence" of his accounts in the United States.

Corpus issued a counter-challenge. He asked Lacson to deny under oath that he had no foreign bank accounts.

"We are the only ones under oath here," Corpus said.

Corpus also asked Lacson to issue waiver for Isafp to look into the accounts and to subject himself to a polygraph test.

But Lacson said the hearing was not the right "forum" for him to take an oath. He said he would take an oath only in the courts.

As to the waiver, he said "it's a stupid guy who signs a blanket waiver."

PING PRODUCES/ A13

JESS YUSON

COL. VICTOR CORPUS: That report was biased.

Mary Ong a pathological liar, says Acop

By Armand N. Nocum

"MARY Ong is a pathological liar and she is involved in various illegal activities."

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, former head of the Narcotics Group of the Philippine National Police, yesterday accused ex-undercover agent "Rosebud" Ong of being a far worse criminal than Sen. Panfilo Lacson and all the people she has charged with various crimes.

He accused Ong of using the Senate to peddle "her fantastic tale of cops gone bad, gone mad, gone almost satanical" because her charges cannot stand up in court.

"We are not drug lords. I am not a drug lord. We are not members of the triad. (My men and I) did not do all those things that Mary Ong ascribes to us," said Acop, whom Ong has accused of conspiring to commit a host of crimes including illegal drug trading, summary executions, torture and kidnapping.

At the same time, the officer ended up confirming some of the issues Ong raised in her testimony at previous Senate hearings.

Testifying before senators, Acop admitted that the nation's illegal drug problem is worsening, and claimed that Chinese nationals running drug syndicates have penetrated the courts, the immigration office, the police and the transportation department.

In a 29-page statement, Acop accused Ong of engaging in illegal drugs, kidnapping, summary executions and swindling activities, mostly involving Chinese nationals.

He accused her of being a major source of illegal drugs routed through Zamboanga City to parts of Mindanao.

"It is true that there is shipment (of drugs) in Mindoro, it is true there is (Oplan) Athena, it is true there is (Oplan) Cyclops, but it is not true

MARY/ A13

How Citibank helped Mexican crook hide $100M

HOW do you hide $100 million in suspected drug money?

Citibank's private bankers can show you precisely how to do it, creating a trail so layered and opaque that it's unlikely anyone trying to track your finances would be able to follow it, according to a report of the General Accounting Office (GAO) that it released in December 1998. The GAO is the investigative arm of the US Congress.

Time Magazine said in its Dec. 14, 1998 issue that the report was the product of an eight-month investigation by the GAO into the ways in which Citibank helped Raul Salinas de Gortari whisked in 1992-94 his fortune from accounts in Mexico to untraceable shell companies in the Cayman Islands.

Salinas, older brother of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Mexico's president from 1988 to 1994, was arrested by Mexican authorities in 1995 and imprisoned on charges of illicit enrichment and masterminding the killing of a top official of the then ruling PRI party.

That year the US justice department

HOW/ A13

Gov't, civil society ask SC to reopen Kuratong slay case

By Michael Lim Ubac

DENOUNCING what he called an "infamous" Court of Appeals ruling, the government's chief lawyer asked the Supreme Court yesterday to allow prosecutors to reopen the controversial Kuratong Baleleng case—and to include Sen. Panfilo Lacson among the accused.

Saying the 1995 alleged rubout of gang members at the hands of the police was not fiction but an "undisputed fact," Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo asked the high court to lift the CA's permanent injunction, issued on Aug. 24, barring any further prosecution of Lacson in connection with the controversy.

GOV'T/ A12

REUTERS

D-DAY: Endangered residents of Botolan, Zambales, cross a river on a rubber tire to evacuate to high ground as the rising waters of Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake are drained today. *(Story on page A2; more pictures on Page A11.)*

3 new witnesses tag Lacson, Razon, Wong

THREE more witnesses testified yesterday at the Senate inquiry on Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson's alleged criminal activities.

The three had earlier wanted to testify at a closed session with the senators, but changed their minds. Who they are and what they said:

- **Staff Sgt. Juanito Pascual**, member of the 4th Light Armor Battalion.

Implicated Lacson in the big drug shipment intercepted by soldiers in Sariaya, Quezon, on Aug. 24, 2000.

Said that his men nabbed six Chinese nationals led by a Raymond Tan bearing 365 kilos of *shabu* at the Villa Vicenta resort, and that he asked Tan who owned the drug shipment.

On being told that it belonged to Lacson, desisted from asking any more questions.

Lacson said the Raymond Tan he knew was not the one apprehended by the military. Asked

3 NEW/ A13

DALIII! BAKA ABUTAN KAYO!

Pinatubo folk flee homes

Botolan declared no-man's land as Aetas prepare to 'bleed' crater

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Almost 40,000 people began leaving their homes at the foot of Mt. Pinatubo yesterday as volcanologists and Aeta tribesmen prepared to drain the infamous volcano's dangerously rising crater lake. *(See photos on Page A11.)*

On foot or riding vans, cars, tractors, carabao-drawn carts and military trucks, residents of Botolan abandoned the town immediately threatened by possible volcanic mudflows that could result from the controlled release of water.

Hundreds of families lined the roads, their belongings contained in sacks, waiting to be picked up by dozens of Army trucks, dump trucks and buses.

Botolan was declared a "no-man's land" starting at 5 p.m. yesterday, said Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr., Zambales police director. He ordered the arrest of anyone found roaming around the town without proper clearance.

"There is the 20 percent probability that the mudflow will reach Botolan," said Raymundo Punongbayan, the head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

No turning back

Punongbayan said that only a typhoon can now reverse the operation to intentionally open the crater-lake, now filled with some 210 million cubic meters of water.

The plan is to open a small breach on the banks of the crater-lake in order to have a controlled release of some 24 million cubic meters of water today, lessening the danger that the lake would overflow.

There were fears that the water from the lake would then mix with the volcanic ash still on Pinatubo's slopes to form destructive, fast-moving mudflows that in the past have swamped whole towns.

"The intervention allows us to give the exact timing when the water will go out" instead of having mudflow cascade down without warning, Punongbayan said.

He believes this is the first time that a volcano crater has been breached this way to bleed off rising water.

Completion

Over the past week government engineers and 96 Aeta tribesmen have been digging a 2-meter wide, 4-meter high and 75-meter long canal at the banks of the 2.5 km-wide lake for the controlled release. They are expected to complete the building of the canal at 7 a.m. today.

Punongbayan said it would take about five hours to drain 24 million cubic meters of water from the 860 meter-high Mt. Pinatubo.

The water will pass through the wedge-shaped canal and spill into the Bucao-Marunot River toward the South China Sea on Luzon's west coast, about 50 km to the northwest.

The canal has no floodgates and will be left open until the end of the rainy season in November, it was learned.

The crater-lake started to fill out shortly after a huge eruption in 1991. Foreign volcanologists have warned of a potential post-eruption catastrophe due to the large volume of impounded water.

As the crater filled out, the wall was gradually eroded by the water, but it was only last month as the water level rose close to the rim during the rainy season that the government decided to act.

No illusions

With the canal less than 24 hours from completion, Aeta chieftain Nelson Pangilinan said the work team was under no illusions about the danger.

"We have no illusions that the entire crater wall will not collapse," he said.

"We are confident that Apong Namalyari will safeguard us," Pangilinan said, referring to the Aetas' supreme deity. The team bled a pig to death as a religious offering at the start of the project.

The workers are paid P250 a day, the daily minimum wage, good money for the Aetas who were among thousands of people displaced from Pinatubo's lower slopes.

The workmen are using only hand tools because of the inhospitable terrain, which ruled out large and motorized earth-moving equipment.

Their base camp is approachable only on foot, after a three-hour hike across a moon-like gray wasteland of caked volcanic debris called Crow Valley. There are no medical or evacuation facilities and the only contact with the outside world is by radio.

From the base camp, the Aetas, working rotating three eight-hour shifts cross the crater-lake on rubber boats to get to the western side, where they are digging behind a notch on the rim.

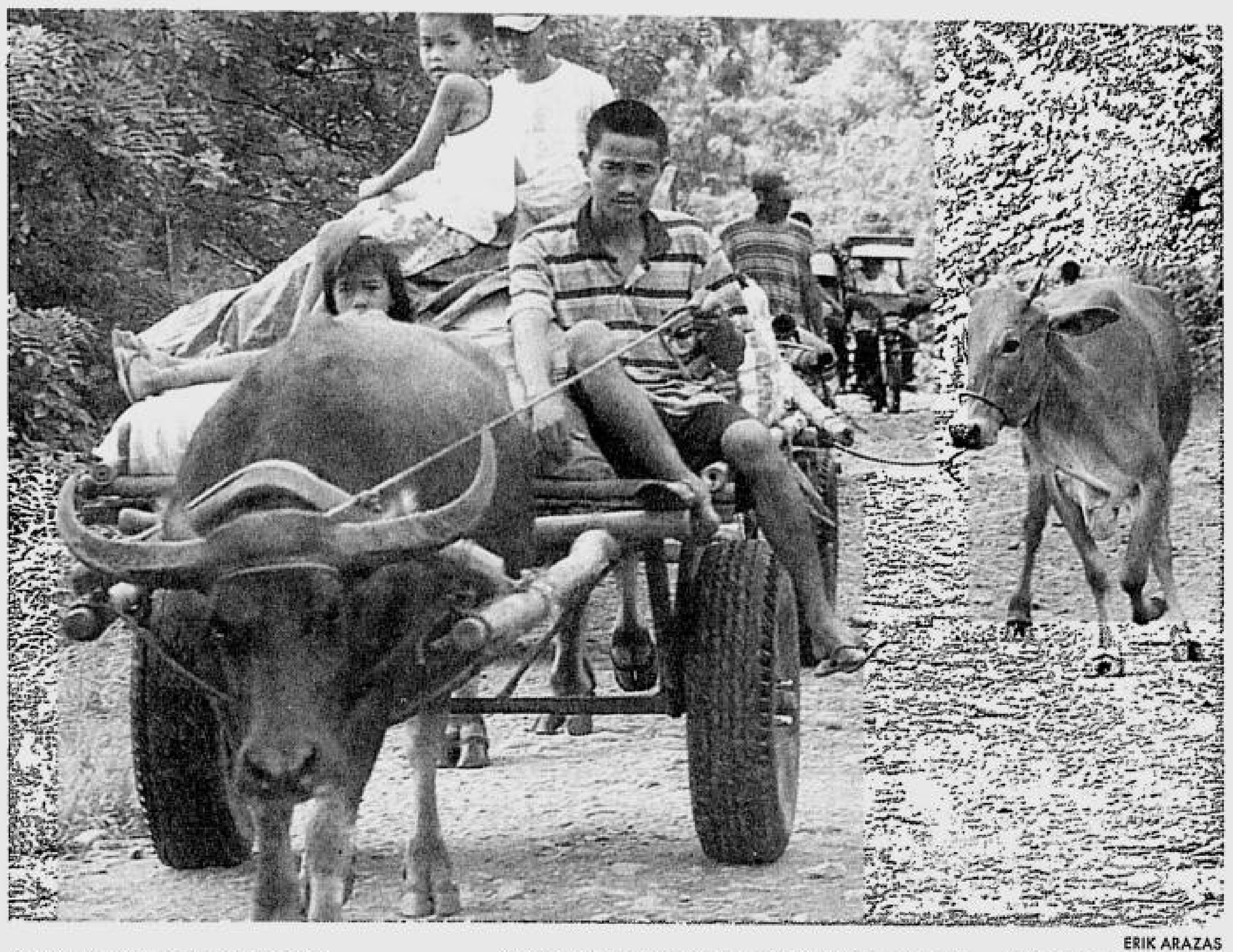
Frightening

"I hope it does not rain hard because the water can rise very quickly," said Army Capt. Genaro Candelaria, leader of a platoon of soldiers assigned to secure the work site.

The potential for destruction is "frightening," he added.

As he spoke, dark gray rain clouds lapped the green, stagnant water on the horizon.

In Botolan, 23 out of 31 villages have been abandoned. These are San Juan, Paudpod, Batonlapoc, Carael, Paco, San Miguel, Capayawan, Bangan, Porac, Beneg, Tampo, Danacbunga, Taugtog, San Isidro, Mambog, Santiago, Parel, Bancal, Loob-Bunga, Moraza, Burgos, Villar and Malomboy. *Tonette Orejas and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with reports from AP and AFP*



ERIK ARAZAS

RESIDENTS in the predicted path of rampaging waters from Mount Pinatubo's crater-lake escape to higher grounds with family, livestock and everything else they could bring.

Panasonic PABX
100% BRAND NEW
SPECIAL PACKAGE UNITS
1 PABX (3) Tels. by (8) LOCAL CAPACITY
1 PANASONIC TELEPHONE OPERATOR
P18,500!
(6) Tel. Lines by (16) locals / (12) Tel. Lines by (64) locals
PABX
Sales Department
Meeting Room
Voice mail
Cellular Phone
Facsimile Machine
Service Department
- brand new products
- 1-year warranty on parts and service
12 years of providing Outstanding Communication Products & Services
intel Communication Corp.
Suite 451 RSM Building, Sta Cruz, Manila
Tel. 733-2549 • 736-1206 • 733-0697

THE BEST IN CONCRETE WATERPROOFING
MAPEI Italy
IDROSILEX PRONTO
Ready-to-use waterproofing mortar for concrete surfaces. Since it is mortar based it is compatible with concrete and is 100% leak and seepage proof.
MAPELASTIC
Ready-to-use waterproofing mortar with added flexibility for bridging hairline cracks, protection of precast structures and retaining walls, or areas subject to heavy loads and vibrations.
ULTRA FAST SETTING WATER PLUG
LAMPOSILEX
Used for plugging any source of water, even under pressure or flowing water on concrete structures.
GLASS FIBER NET
FOR REINFORCEMENT ON WATERPROOFING, PAINTING AND WALL PLASTERING WORKS.
Waterproofing Contractor Inquiries Are Welcome
Sole Agent:
DEXTERTON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St. (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 323-1111 ; 361-6006 Fax No. 362-0524
E-mail : dexterton@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

REAL REAL REAL REAL REAL REAL REAL
REAL POWER TOOLS
MURA!!! MATIBAY!!!
MAY 6-MOS. WARRANTY PA!!!
ALL BRAND NEW!!!
ELECTRIC DRILL P450
ELECTRIC DRILL P690
ANGLE GRINDER P730
IMPACT DRILL P1,450
395 Banawe Ave., Quezon City 741-0718, 19 & 21
Available at the following dealers
- San Juan, M. Mla. (726-8818 • 725-0147 • 725-8721)
- Kalookan City (366-5269)
- Marulas (292-8319)
- Mayon St. Q. C. (740-6944)
- Montalban, Rizal (427-7186) Cel#: 0917-9607525
- Sta.Cruz, Manila (256-4973 • 256-4986)
- Commonwealth Q.C. (427-7186 • 0917-9607525)
- Proj. 6, Q.C. (926-1781 • 920-4280)
- Kawit, Cavite (046) 4346966)
- Ilaya, Tondo, Mla. (247-3773 • 245-5469)
- Valenzuela (432-9470)
- La Loma, Quezon City (740-2423 • 740-6590)
- T. Alonzo (733-5236 • 733-5283,

BIG SALE
6 IN 1
5 TELEPHONE LINES + 1 INTERCOM
1 TELEPHONE
EVERTEL CAN PROVIDE
- 2, 3, 4 LINE PHONES
- PABX/KEY TELEPHONE
- FASHION PHONE
- SPEAKER PHONE
- HANDS-FREE EAR PHONE
LIKE PABX BUT PRICE IS CHEAPER
EverTel
EVERTEL PHILS., CORP.
TEL. NOS. 749-5464/66
711-5073, 732-9432
FAX NO. 732-9441

6 Ricaforte bank accounts frozen

BY DONNA S. CUETO

EQUITABLE PCIBank has frozen nine accounts of Yolanda Ricaforte containing at least P11 million, in accordance with a notice of garnishment issued by the Sandiganbayan.

Complying with the anti-graft court's directive, Equitable vice president Manuel Curato said the bank had already frozen the Ricaforte accounts that the Sandiganbayan had hoped would satisfy any judgment on the plunder case.

The accounts were believed to be maintained by Ricaforte for ousted President Joseph Estrada from the proceeds of illegal gambling as alleged by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whose revelations led to the impeachment of Estrada and his eventual ouster from office.

"Please be advised that we have caused to be garnished whatever deposits Ms. Yolanda T. Ricaforte has with our bank to satisfy the amount stated in the writ of preliminary attachment," Curato said in his letter on Tuesday to Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta.

The next move for the court is to issue a notice of delivery to the bank, directing it to transfer to the court the deposits under the six savings account and three checking accounts owned by Ricaforte.

These funds would then be deposited by the court in a government bank such as the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The court notice to the bank dated Sept. 3 said these accounts were to be garnished or frozen "for the recovery or the satisfaction of any judgment that may be recovered in this case..."

Meanwhile, the pre-trial in the plunder case against Estrada, his son Jinggoy, and lawyer Edward Serapio resumed but without the presence of the three accused yesterday.

RICAFORTE

The Sandiganbayan's Third Division had ruled that the jailed leader, who has been confined at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center since May, should come to court to sign the pre-trial order when it was ready and final.

It rejected the earlier suggestion of Estrada's lawyers that the court sheriff could just bring the court's pre-trial order to VMMC for the signature of the Estradas.

Both the defense and the prosecution, however, failed to come out with a joint stipulation of facts on the plunder case as of yesterday.

A joint stipulation of facts agreed upon by both parties was needed before the court could come out with a pre-trial order.

Still, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and defense lawyer Cleofe Verzola were optimistic that the joint stipulation of facts in the plunder case would be ready by today.

The court had originally set the pre-trial in the plunder case from Monday until today.

Fake $23.9B notes seized in Davao

POLICE seized suspected counterfeit US Federal Reserve notes with a face value of $23.9 billion from two men and a woman in Davao City, officials said yesterday.

Officers responding to a tip that drugs would be transported in a taxi cab, flagged down the vehicle in Davao City on Tuesday and discovered instead 239 pieces of suspect Federal Reserve Notes in a box inside the cab, police said.

The taxi driver, Amerigo Rejuso Jr., and his two passengers, Corazon Polvoroza and Edelberto Guerrero, were immediately placed under arrest, said Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Police turned over specimen samples to a UAS Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) unit in Manila, Gualberto said.

He said a representative of the US Secret Service will examine the notes in Davao.

The police received an anonymous telephone tip that the vehicle was carrying illegal drugs, Gualberto said.

Another report said the counterfeit notes were found in the trunk of the car.

Many counterfeit US Federal Reserve and bonds have been seized in Mindanao.

In June, Klaus Dietrich Salzieder from Hamburg, Germany, was arrested, also in Davao, with fake US Federal Reserve bonds with a face value of $1.125 billion.

In February, police seized fake US Federal Reserve bond certificates with a face value of $2 trillion in another southern province.

In May, fake US federal notes worth $1 trillion were confiscated, also in Mindanao. *Associated Press*

Kim Wong pal is SC administrator

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday appointed an associate justice of the appellate court as the high court's new administrator.

However, CA Associate Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., reportedly has links with suspected drug lord, Kim Wong.

Velasco, however, was quick to dismiss allegations of his close links with Wong, saying, "I don't know why a mere acquaintanceship with Mr. Wong will cause my inclusion in the alleged (military) list (of government officials linked to Wong)."

Velasco stressed that one "cannot assume to know all the activities of people you know, even assuming Mr. Wong is engaged in illegal activities. Plainly, it would be most unfair to implicate me just because he is my acquaintance," said Velasco in a letter to Davide on Aug. 28.

The 53-year-old Velasco will occupy the position vacated by Justice Alfredo Benipayo, who is now the chair of the Commission on Elections.

He bested three other appellate justices and one trial judge from Bulacan.

Among those who were considered for the post were CA associate justices Remedios Salazar-Fernando, Portia Alino-Hormachuelos and Jose Sabio Jr.

Deputy Court Administrator Zenaida Elepano was also considered for the post. Elepano took over Benipayo's job in an acting capacity.

Velasco's appointment will take effect on Sept. 11, according to a news bulletin released by the high court yesterday.

In a full court resolution, the SC justices said Velasco had been appointed court administrator "upon recommendation of the Chief Justice and the convincing majority of the votes the members of this Court."

The Office of the Court Administrator wields power and influence since it supervises and administers judges and personnel of lower courts. It recommends administrative sanctions to judges like reprimand, suspension and dismissal.

It also reports and recommends to the SC all actions affecting lower court management, personnel and financial administration and administrative discipline.

The office was created through Presidential Decree No. 828, as amended by PD 842.

In his letter to Davide, Velasco himself admitted he personally knew Wong.

He, however, flatly denied any link to the alleged criminal activities of the controversial Filipino-Chinese businessman, who claims to be a small-time restaurateur.

75
STIHL®
75th Year Corporate Commitment: To contribute to the Government's Drive to Stop the Dengue Epidemic. Made in Germany
Effective and Economical MIST BLOWER for a wide range of applications.
STIHL
URBAN AREAS:
HOSPITALS
SCHOOLS
PARKS
RESORTS
DENGUE CONTOL
GARBAGE DISPOSAL SITES
COLISEUMS
HOTEL & RESTAURANTS
PUBLIC & GOVERNMENT OFFICES
BARANGAYS
75% SAVINGS ON CHEMICALS
SPRAYING PLANT CONTROL CHEMICAL FOR :
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARM
ORCHARDS
FISH FEEDING
RESIDUAL EFFECT THAT CAN LAST FOR 30 DAYS
SIX (6) MONTHS WARRANTY • SPARE PARTS AVAILABILITY GUARANTEED
address: #10 TAGDALIT ST. MANRESA, Q.C.
e-mail: DEUTSCHE@TRI-ISYS.COM
Deutsche Motorgeräte Inc.
tel. #s: 3302116-17, 3641290, 4131566-67, 4165434
fax no.: 3302118, 3654473
AVAILABLE AT ALL STIHL DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Evidence of Ping's 'bugs' strong, says Ombudsman

By Michael Lim Ubac

LACSON

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has found probable cause to warrant a formal investigation into charges that then national police chief Panfilo Lacson and several subordinates in their defunct anti-crime task force had tapped into the telephone conversations of others illegally.

"We have ordered a formal investigation into the complaint filed with this office by the Philippine National Police against Lacson and others in connection with the discovery of surveillance equipment (at an Ortigas Center hotel)," Desierto said at his weekly press conference yesterday.

Desierto said the preliminary investigation was begun on Tuesday and was based on the recommendation of a five-man special panel from his office, which conducted the preliminary inquiry into the case.

The panel is headed by Director Ernesto Nocus of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

On Aug. 31, the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed with the Ombudsman's Office criminal charges against Lacson and 10 subordinates in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in connection with the alleged wiretapping.

Police Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, PNP-CIDG head, charged Lacson and his men with malversation of funds, graft, false testimony and perjury, and violation of the 1965 Anti-Wiretapping Act.

The other respondents are Police Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Magtanggol Gatdula, Lt. Colonels Dioscoro Reyes and Dennis Agaram, Police Supt. John Lopez, Police Chief Insp. Steve Ludan, PO2s Giovanni Belen, Freddie Ferrer and Wendel Arinas, and Tech Sgt. Arturo Tabang.

The complaint alleged that at least two documents authorizing the purchase of electronic bugging equipment in 1999 worth $653,116.59 bore the signature of Lacson. The money reportedly came from the P500-million intelligence fund of the PAOCTF.

In the complaint, Gualberto asked Desierto to get the Sandiganbayan's permission to download the contents of a computer disc that was found with the bugging equipment during the Aug. 20 raid by the PNP.

Police believe the disc contains the names of government officials and business, media and opposition leaders whose telephone conversations were allegedly bugged by Lacson and his men during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada late last year.

In a 10-page letter-complaint, Gualberto narrated in detail how the PNP, under Lacson, acquired the surveillance equipment.

The CIDG chief said that sometime in 1999, Dean Ablan and Gertrudes de Leon, president and vice president, respectively, of Armstrack Corp. (ATC), a local telecommunications equipment dealer, offered to sell to PAOCTF the GA900 and DDF (Digital Directional Finder) surveillance devices.

Both German-made devices can intercept, record and locate cellular phone, landline and radio transmissions.

In June 1999, the group of Gatdula, Reyes, De Leon, Ablan, Lacson, Aquino and Police Senior Supt. Francisco Zubia arrived in Munich, Germany, for a product demonstration of the bugging devices.

"The tests and demonstration were successful and (the equipment) was found suitable for PAOCTF's requirements," Gualberto said.

When they got back to Manila, Lacson instructed Gatdula to proceed with the purchase of the equipment.

In February 2000, the contract was signed by Gatdula and Ablan. "As agreed, the 20 percent down payment equivalent to $195,934 was paid in cash on Feb. 4," Gualberto said.

The surveillance equipment arrived in Manila on April 22, 2000 and was released by customs officials to PAOCTF on April 28.

On May 15, the equipment was brought to Clark Field in Pampanga for hands-on training and tests by PAOCTF men.

The officials later informed Ablan and De Leon that they wanted the equipment to be installed in a four-wheel drive vehicle and a Ford Chateau Wagon.

Armstrack rejected the proposal since it was not part of the agreement.

10 SSS officials suspended

By Michael Lim Ubac

TEN ranking officials of the Social Security System, led by vice president Horacio Templo, were yesterday preventively suspended by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for "causing undue injury to the government" when they allegedly overpriced by P1.1 billion the PCI Bank shares that the SSS bought in 1999.

Suspended for six months without pay, aside from Templo, were Edgar Solilapsi, senior vice president for investment; Amador Monteiro, senior vice president for legal and collection; Lilia Marquez, institutional loans department head; and SSS commissioners Rafael Estrada, Miguel Varela, Marianita Mendoza, Juan Tan, Raul Inocentes and Aurora Arnaez.

Government corporate counsel Amado Valdez, who assisted the SSS in filing the complaint last week, welcomed the speedy action of the Ombudsman.

"We are trying to restore the capacity of the ordinary working man to dream of a secure future which was lost because of this investment without due diligence on the part of these officials," said Valdez.

Desierto said the order "immediately effective and executory." Besides the 10, four former SSS officials have been implicated in the scandal. They are former chair, president and chief executive officer Carlos Arellano, retired executive vice president Leopoldo Veroy, and former SSS commissioners Cecilio Seno and Bienvenido Laguesma.

Having resigned or retired from the SSS, the four could not be issued a suspension order.

But they are still being investigated in ongoing criminal and administrative probes of the case.

All 14 incumbent and ex-officials were charged on Aug. 28 with "graft, grave misconduct and conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

The complaint was filed by eight SSS officials led by executive vice president May Catherine Ciriaco, who is identified with the faction of former SSS chair Vitaliano Nañagas.

Nañagas was replaced after striking SSS workers protesting his supposed "management style" virtually paralyzed the state-run pension fund's operations.

His ouster is believed to have resulted from the investigation he initiated into the investment scandals at the SSS.

Desierto said his office had found sufficient grounds to warrant the conduct of a formal investigation into the case.

The 14 respondents have been ordered to file their counter-affidavits and other controverting evidence within 10 days from receipt of the order.

The complaint alleged that the 14 respondents caused injury to the pension fund by "entering into a transaction manifestly disadvantageous to the SSS as well as the government."

3 bandits slain as troops close in on Abu Sayyaf

By Carlito Pablo
and Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Three Abu Sayyaf rebels were killed in a clash with the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion in barangay Candiis, Tuburan, Basilan, at around 6:45 Tuesday morning.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, commander of the 18th Infantry Battalion, said one soldier was wounded, although he declined to identify him. The Abu Sayyaf victims were likewise unidentified.

Tuesday's firefight was part of a series of clashes between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in Tuburan that started on Monday.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. of the Army's 103rd Brigade said the military operation against the Abu Sayyaf is now centered in Lantawan, Sumisip, Maluso, Lamitan, Tuburan and Tipo-tipo towns.

Esperon said government troops were closing in on bandit leaders Abu Sabaya and Khadaffy Janjalani who are believed holed up in barangay Libog and Cabcaban in Sumisip town.

Two Army battalions—the 11th and 77th—are boarding troop ships at the Sangley Point, Cavite naval base for deployment to Basilan to augment the government forcers pursuing the Abu Sayyaf.

"They will be in Basilan in a few days," said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr.

Aside from the Army reinforcements, more Marines are set to be transferred from other areas in Mindanao to Basilan, according to Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Cimatu did not say how many Marines would be deployed. At present, there are two Marine battalions in Basilan.

The Army has two brigades—the 102nd and 103rd—in Basilan. A brigade is composed of three battalions.

The 11th Infantry Battalion is based in Negros Occidental, while the 77th IB is from Fort Magsaysay, home of the 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija.

Earlier yesterday, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo the additional troops "will be enough to meet the tactical needs in the (Basilan) area."

Villanueva said the AFP is also putting up more Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units in the province.

"The objective is to strengthen the Cafgu presence to be able to defend clusters of villages day and night," he said.

Villanueva also said the military has disbursed at least P25 million in reward money to civilians who helped in the arrest of Abu Sayyaf leaders and members.

Yesterday, Villanueva handed over a P5-million reward to a tipster who had led authorities to Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmie Saabtullah, alias Commander Global, who was arrested in Cagayan de Oro City on July 8.

Saabtullah was among those who led in the kidnapping of 21 mostly foreign hostages from a Malaysian resort in April last year.

Currently, the Abu Sayyaf is holding 18 hostages, including an American missionary couple abducted from a Palawan resort last May. The military said the hostages were still alive.

Villanueva said the latest information on the captives was that they were all in "good condition" 102 days into their captivity.

"They're all well but are being moved from one locality to another. They have no wounds and are in good condition," Villanueva told reporters.

US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly had expressed concern for the American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham, in a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday.

Previously, military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said military intelligence indicated the Burnhams were still alive but under extreme "physical hardship" in Basilan's rough jungle terrain. *With an AFP report*

Solon seeks end to Basilan probe

By Volt Contreras

THE HOUSE inquiry into the alleged collusion between military and local officials and the Abu Sayyaf may be headed the way of most congressional investigations after a Mindanao representative moved to end the probe yesterday for lack of conclusive evidence.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar, at the same time, belied allegations he had delivered ransom money to the bandit group when the military had the Abu Sayyaf surrounded in Lamitan town on June 2.

Akbar said he was at Lamitan Mayor Inocentes Ramos' house from about 2 p.m. of June 2 until the following day.

This was corroborated by Ramos, who himself was accused of being with Akbar when the governor was allegedly seen carrying two attaché cases into the Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital at about 6:30 p.m. on June 2.

The cases were believed to contain ransom money paid for the release of hostages Reghis Romero II and his woman companion.

"Next to impossible," Akbar said when asked if he believed there was collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

BAD BREATH NO MORE
For years the cause of chronic *bad breath* has been misdiagnosed but a dentist's research has led to Therabreath™ system a dramatic treatment that works naturally and effectively.
THERABREATH™ system is the surest way to eliminate *bad breath*, sour/bitter tastes, dry mouth, thick pasty saliva, post nasal drip, phlegm in throat, white coating on tongue.
Free use of HALIMETER to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring *bad breath* condition.
Also our clinic offers TEETH BLEACHING
Visit or call: 800-1538;800-3836;806-4949
DENTA FRESH BREATH CARE SYSTEM

Diamonds
We are BUYING loose DIAMONDS and BIG DIAMOND JEWELRIES
Any Quantity! Any Quality!
Above 1 carat to any size!
Confidential and comfort are promised!
Feel SAFE. Have NO RISK. Get CASH Payment!
• We can help you redeem your items
• Special arrangement for regular suppliers
• Optional: High Pawning Value for Diamonds
Diamond Sources Pawnshop, Inc is a related company to one of the biggest diamond exporters in the world. Therefore, Diamond Sources has the best outlet for your diamonds and will be able to pay you high price for your diamonds!
GET THE MAXIMUM VALUE FOR YOUR DIAMONDS! SELL TO US!
Big and VERY BIG transactions are most welcome.
Diamond Sources Pawnshop, Inc. (CPPI Member) Mandaluyong Branch 21 Edsa Arcade 111 Edsa Mandaluyong City
Monday - Friday By Appointment
Tel 635-2815 Fax 632-9805 Pager 1277-89270

WEIGH LESS CENTER
"NO TIME TO DIET"
Janice de Belen
TV Host/Actress
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC
CLINICA MANILA
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA 31 Roces Avenue, Quezon City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER
MINDANAO AVENUE BRANCH
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

Learn to communicate effectively & pave your way to success with...
MD LANGUAGE EXPERTS
Speech Plus CONSULTANCY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Visit us anytime during office hours for FREE EVALUATION.
For more inquiries:
Rm.401-A. Della Bldg.,West Avenue, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 374-4853 / 374-4855 / 371-3738
Cell No.: 0919-8533406
● CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH
● PRACTICAL GRAMMAR
● SPEECH IMPROVEMENT
● PUBLIC SPEAKING
● BUSINESS WRITING
● EXPRESSIVE WRITING
● BROADCASTING
● PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
● ENTREPRENEURSHIP
● FOREIGN LANGUAGES
● CORPORATE TRAINING
● PRIVATE TUTORIAL
● COACHING SERVICES

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THIS YEAR'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND LARGEST GATHERING OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICAL PRACTITIONERS
2001 ENGINEERING EXPOSITION
Technology Products and Services Exhibition
SEPTEMBER 6 - 8, 2001, 10 am to 6 pm at the PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER (PTTC)

RICOH COPIERS
OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY
Liquid Type P 12,000 only
Powder Type P 16,000 only
AVAILABLE LEASE TO OWN/RENT
KAI GEN. MDSE. Tel.: 716-6110 / 780-0302 / 780-0394
(INFRONT OF PUP ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.)
GC-1 BLDG 3 GSIS METROHOMES PUREZA STA MESA MANILA
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
LUZON: Sta Maria (044) 6415166 • Bocaue (044) 692-5377 • Lipa (043) 3122676 • Lucena 042-7107966 • Daet 054-7215829 • Naga 472-0494 • Iriga 054-6562024 • Legaspi 052-8203345 • Masbate 056-3332793 • VISAYAS: Cebu 032-4123697 • Catbalogan 055-2512206 • Calbayog 055-2093322 • Tacloban (053) 325-3441 • Iloilo 033-3297828 • MINDANAO: Pagadian (062) 214-4561 • Davao 082-2226824 • Gen Santos 083-3020743 • Cagayan de Oro 088-2313850 • Cotabato (064) 421-6239 • Iligan 063-2215492

Keep The Good Memories More Vivid And Lasting!
ONLY P700
We'll transfer them from Beta, VHS, Video 8, & Vhs-C
For special occasions like weddings, baptismal, birthdays and corporate videos like product demos, company profile and audio-visual presentation.
Free Pick-Up And Delivery Within Metro Manila
IDEAL WORKS ☎ 892-9073 / 075 Fax: 867-4226

China Promo
6 Days Laoag/Macau/Zhuhai/Shenzhen/HongKong $199
10 Days Shenzhen/Guangzhou/HongKong $299
10 Days Shenzhen/Guangzhou/Foshan/Nanjing/Suzhou/Shanghai/Hangzhou/Hkg $399
10 Days Beijing $468
UNION TRAVEL & TOURS
524-3943 or 44 • 524-8609 or 10
525-3034 or 45 • 525-3039
E-mail: uniontours@eastern.com.ph

TRAVEL NEBULIZER
USE ANYTIME/ANYWHERE
• Handy & Portable
• Battery Operated
• AC/DC Voltage
• With Carrying Bag
TRAVEL NEB
fareastmedical.net
SM MANILA 5TH FLR. 484-1471
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 262 32 39
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800 40 93
GREENHILLS SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721 34 87

HIGHLY POWERFUL
MODERN VACUUM CLEANERS
Lavamatic TI W/ extractor
Industrial 50 50 liters
Industrial 70 70 liters
Nevada 640 3200 watts
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
FROM THE NO. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Exclusively Distributed by: CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.
Main Office: Kimika Bldg., 1851 M. Orosa St., Malate, Mla Telefax 5244380
Tel. Nos.: 5244472 • 5240529 Trunkline: 5245290
Quezon City Br: 646 Quezon Ave., Q.C. across Sto. Domingo Church Bet. G. Araneta Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

Why take risk with diet pills?
Get slim without putting your health at risk. With daily intake of Biguerlai Slimming Tea you can get rid of stored fats, which you get from eating oily food.
As an effective laxative, Biguerlai helps regulate bowel movement and contributes to your general fitness and good health.
100% SAFE & HERBAL.
Exclusively Distributed by:
ALLIED EXPRESS INT'L. IMPORT-EXPORT INC.
BFAD Registration No.: DR-XY27091
Biguerlai Slimming Tea
15 YEARS IN THE MARKET
AVAILABLE AT MERCURY DRUG STORES, FAMILY DRUG, I-MART, SM HEALTH & BEAUTY & LEADING SUPERMARKETS NATIONWIDE.

INSIGHT VACATIONS
The Art of Touring in Style
Europe's finest Winter Vacations
Insight Vacations is proud to present 4 NEW exciting escorted coach tour programs to Europe this winter with departures from November 2001 to March 2002.
* 7 Days AMAZING IRELAND (Dublin, Galway, Tralee, Waterford) From US$525 per person
* 9 Days WINTER WONDERLAND (Frankfurt, Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck & Lucerne From US$699 per person
* 9 Days AMAZING SPAIN & PORTUGAL (Madrid, Granada, Seville, Salamanca) From US$635 per person
* 8 Days AMAZING ITALY (Rome, Florence, Venice) From US$625 per person
TRAVEL in the OFF SEASON & SAVE
EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR INSIGHT CLIENTS
FLY TO EUROPE ON AIR FRANCE for only US$888 per person
Paris or London Superdeal EXTENDED until March 2002!
For an additional selection of Europe, Britain, America andEastern Mediterranean vacations, ask for our Insight brochures.
Contact your preferred travel agent, or call our Insight desk:
Manila : Tel. Nos. 523-88-01 to 07 / 526-46-40 / 524-12-76 Fax No. 524-[illegible]
Email : tours@skyinet.net
Makati : Tel. Nos. 894-08-86 to 90 / 812-49-99 Fax No. 812-[illegible]
Email : toursmkt@rajahtravel.com
RajahTravel CORPORATION

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inquirer.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

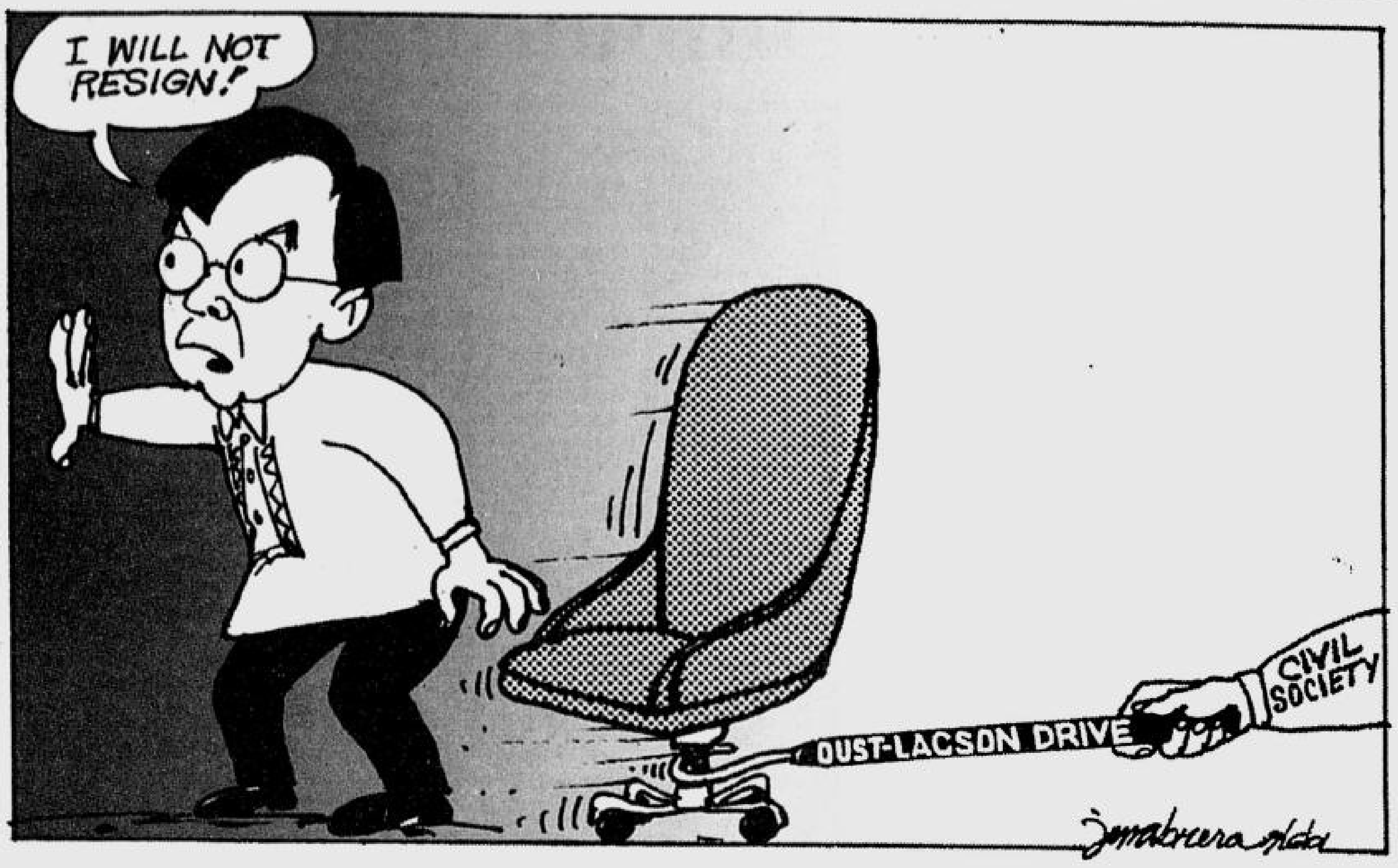
Vol. 16 No. 270
ISSN 0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher
LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief
JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor
ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor
ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor
NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor
PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor
GERRY LIRIO
City Editor
JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor
ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson
AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman
ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President
RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing
DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services
FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising
GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.



EDITORIALS

Cleavage reopened

RETIRED generals who took part in the campaign to oust President Joseph Estrada have returned to the political arena, spearheading the call for the resignation or expulsion from the Senate of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. In calling for Lacson's expulsion or resignation, they said that allegations linking him to drug trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping for ransom have "clouded" his integrity and weakened "public trust" in him. The retired generals have regrouped with their allies in the anti-Estrada movement with a new coalition, this time against a new issue: the possible rise of narco-politics due to the involvement of law enforcement agencies in drug trafficking.

During a "summit" held Tuesday with the theme, "Narco-politics—a Clear and Present Danger;" the other day, familiar figures in the anti-Estrada movement resurfaced, including retired Generals Fortunato Abat, chair of the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldier, and Jose Almonte, former President Ramos' national security adviser. The meeting again brought together such organizations as the Couples for Christ and Sanlakas, both representing opposite sides of the political spectrum. The summit participants called on the Senate ethics committee to begin expulsion proceedings against Lacson in the light of testimony by a growing number of witnesses outlining the penetration of the drug-trafficking syndicates into Philippine politics and law-enforcement agencies.

The testimony of new witnesses cannot be ignored without putting national security at risk. And it would be a mistake to consider the renewed political activism of retired generals as a symptom of a coup undercurrent in the armed forces.

The object of their call is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, although Lacson is more identified with the police than with the present Armed Forces of the Philippines. The call is not a manifestation of the traditional military-police rivalry. Rather it is a sign of the reopening of the cleavage between groups that thrived during the Estrada presidency and those that had been roiled by the corruption of his regime.

Reports of alleged coup plots have no factual or even logical basis. The coup cannot be directed against the sitting government which has been accused of instigating the investigation by the military intelligence service. It does not make sense to say that a coup is directed at the Senate because that chamber is not the government. If at all, the backing by the military leadership of the efforts to get to the bottom of the allegations against Lacson indicates that the military is aware of its responsibility to safeguard the national interest against the corrosive solvents of narco-politics.

Thus, before coup rumors are given credence by the press, the target of the supposed coup has to be identified and the reasons for alleged conspiracies have to be shown to have a logical basis. Right now, coup rumors appear to be merely diversionary moves to blur the focus of the Senate inquiry.

Growing pressure

THE SENATE is on the spot in this investigation not only because one of its members is linked to illegal activities but more so because there is growing public pressure to expel Lacson as new witnesses reveal the dimensions of the problem and its links to other crimes like murder and torture. There is a growing clamor for a cleanup of the Senate, as well as of the law enforcement agencies, especially the national police. More than the AFP, it is the PNP that is more susceptible to getting into narcotics-related crimes.

Informal public opinion surveys on the testimony of "Rosebud" done by TV networks show that an overwhelming majority of viewers find Ong credible. This is the tide against which Lacson must swim. The respondents are saying that the Senate is on the right track and doing right by expanding the scope of its inquiry. And the trend seems to indicate that as more witness come forward, more substance is being added to back the allegations first brought forward by Corpus.

Three-day weekend is a reward for laziness

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DICK Gordon, the tourism secretary, has had many crazy ideas in the past, but the craziest so far is his latest brainstorm: a four-day workweek for government employees. Hardly any work done is done by public servants in a five-day workweek but here comes Gordon reducing it by one more day. Now, instead of getting the paper work done in one month, they will do it in two.

President Macapagal ordered in her State of the Nation Address the bureaucracy to shorten the red tape and to cut in half the steps usually done in processing papers. But with the reduced working days, the waiting will be even longer because government workers have to leave early for their three-day weekends.

Why did Gordon come up with that crazy idea? To boost tourism, according to him. In his simple mind, he thinks that if you give workers long weekends, they would all troop to the beaches and vacation spots and thus boost tourism and make him a hero. He thinks people are not going to tourist spots because they are working at their desks too hard and too long. Wrong.

I think Filipino government workers have the shortest daily working hours. They're supposed to work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It doesn't happen that way. Many arrive 15 or 30 minutes late (somebody has already punched their time cards in for them). Then they spend the first hour or so cleaning their desks and chairs, reading the newspapers or having breakfast at the canteen. It is not until after 10 a.m. that they are able to attend to the people wanting to transact business with them. By that time, it is time for the morning break. And shortly after they return to their desks, it is time for the lunch break.

Now while government workers, especially high-ranking officials, have the shortest working hours, they make up for it by having the longest lunch and *merienda* breaks. An official will leave his office for lunch at a five-star hotel at 11 a.m. and won't come back until after 3 p.m. By that time, it is almost time for the afternoon *merienda* break, which he takes until 4:30 p.m. or later.

At 4:30 p.m. almost all work in government offices grind to a stop as the employees pack their bags—and the various goods they sell to their office mates during office hours—and primp in the comfort rooms as they prepare to go home. Never mind if there are still many people waiting at the windows. They pluck down "closed" signs and tell the people, who have been waiting in line since morning: "*Bumalik na lang kayo bukas.*"

At 10 minutes to 5, there is already a long line at the bundy clock waiting to punch out, impatiently muttering to one another: "*Ang bagal naman ng* bundy clock *na 'yan.*"

What did they accomplish during the time they were actually inside the government offices? Well, they sold thousands of pesos worth of baby dresses, *tinapa* and *tocino*, boneless *bangus* from Pangasinan, mangoes and lanzones, T-shirts and pants, cheap jewelry, etc. Oh, they also talked to a few of the people waiting outside and pushed a few pencils and shuffled a few papers.

That's not all. Do you notice a ladies bag on top of an otherwise deserted desk? When you ask the clerk at the next table where the occupant of the desk is, whose signature you happen to need, she replies: "*Nandiyan lang 'yan. Nandiyan ang* bag, *eh.*"

But no, she's not anywhere in the office. She's either at the wet market or the shopping mall or at home cooking the food she had bought earlier. That bag on the desk is just a decoy.

Now Gordon wants to reward such inventiveness with a shortened workweek and a long weekend. If he cannot make the foreign tourists come here, he can at least make the government employees spend their time in the tourist spots instead of in their offices.

Such simple thinking is in the same class as the belief that "open skies" will make foreign tourists flock to the Philippines. Well, the Philippine skies are now open to all airlines, but where are the tourists? In the same way, Filipinos will not flock to the tourist spots just because you give them three-day weekends. They may have the time but they don't have the money.

Besides, it is so hard to go to the tourist spots because of the lack of transportation and roads. If you have transportation, the roads are clogged and you spend half your vacation time on the road. The car drive to Baguio used to take only four hours. Now you need twice that time because of the traffic on the highways. Before, you could take a leisurely ride on a train to Damortis or to Legaspi, Albay, and admire Mayon Volcano through the train windows. Not anymore.

And once you get to your vacation spot, you find there are no places to stay in there. On the way, you can't even find clean restrooms when your bladder is bursting.

Secretary Gordon, I'm sorry to be such a killjoy, but people will go to tourist spots and spend their money only when there is something to see, some place to stay in and some easy way to get there—and yes, money. Without them, they won't go there even if you give them four-day weekends. They will just go to the shopping malls and make Henry Sy and John Gokongwei very happy.

Jail him, don't make him resign

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BEFORE I watched Panfilo Lacson's face-off with Mary Ong yesterday, I saw a report on TV the day before about a group that wants him to resign from the Senate. They included variously civil organizations, military officers and church representatives. My reaction to it was ambivalence.

On one hand, there does seem to be sufficient grounds for making Lacson resign, or at least take a leave of absence, as some generals have recommended. The presumption of innocence means only that one may remain free until the charges against him are proven to be true. It does not mean that one may remain in public office until the charges against him are proven to be true. In Japan and South Korea, two close neighbors, the slightest suggestion of wrongdoing has been enough to compel public officials to resign. Which is why those countries are progressive and why we are not: there is a definite link between progress and ethical behavior.

In this case, we have more than the slightest hint of scandal, we have copious blotches of them. Mary Ong may not have linked Lacson directly to drug-pushing, kidnapping and murder—she has merely inferred his involvement in them—but she has linked Lacson's two closest lieutenants, Reynaldo Acop and John Campos, to them. At the very least by the principle of command responsibility, a principle the Philippine Military Academy whose culture Lacson likes to invoke takes to be supreme, Lacson must share the blame for the crimes they committed. It is a criminally incompetent commanding officer who does not know what his immediate subordinates are doing.

At the very most, well, it staggers the mind to see how he could not have known so. Of course, he has every right to challenge Ong's word in that respect. But as things stand, Lacson, if he has any sense of honor as he claims to have, having just invoked the PMA's code in his confrontation with Angelo Reyes, should take a leave of absence or resign to preserve the integrity of the institution he currently serves, which is the Senate.

But that is not something we may compel, or demand. Which brings me to why I am ambivalent about the campaign for him to do so. At the very least, you demand that a public official resign or take a leave of absence only when his keeping his position jeopardizes the investigation against him. You demand that, for example, from a police chief if Internal Affairs is investigating him for graft since he stands to influence their investigation. Lacson is in no position to compromise the Senate hearing against him by resigning or taking a leave of absence. The way the hearing has gone so far, he has been powerless to prevent his accusers from going directly to media or trotting out any character they want to testify against him.

The point is not to make him resign or take a leave of absence, the point is to jail him if he has laundered money, pushed drugs, kidnapped, and/or murdered. But for that to happen, Victor Corpus must show proof he has. That Corpus has not done to a convincing degree up to now. Which is why I find it hard to buy the campaign he, Jose Almonte and civil society groups have launched. It shifts the burden of proof from them, the accusers, to Lacson, the accused. It says that until Lacson can prove himself innocent, he should take the consequences of Corpus et al.'s charges against him. When what Corpus et al. should really be saying is: "We have shown a prima facie case against Lacson, it's time to hale him to court."

The brief flurry of exchange between Lacson and Corpus yesterday morning has not helped to disabuse me of my anxieties. Challenged by Lacson to show any document or confirmation showing he (Lacson) had monies stashed abroad, Corpus issued the counterchallenge for Lacson to deny his charges. What is this, unless Lacson can show his charges are not true, then they should stand? We now have a democracy, in case Corpus hasn't heard. Again, after Lacson read a document from Citibank denying he had money deposited with them, Corpus countered that Citibank did the same thing in the case of former Mexican President Salinas' brother only to be found out to be lying. What is this again, unless Lacson can show proof Citibank is telling the truth this time, Corpus' charge should stand?

All this reverses the order of things. What makes it even more infuriating is Corpus' tendency to launch into a lecture about the dangers of "narco-politics" each time he is challenged to show proof, or someone suggests he went to media halfcocked. The ploy is nothing more than flag-waving. All it is saying is, "If you don't believe me, you must believe in 'narco-politics,'" or at least, "If you don't believe me, you are ignorant of the extent of 'narco-politics.'"

Who wants "narco-politics"? But the thing won't disappear by mere psy war, or propaganda. Corpus has brought a case against Lacson, and it startles me that almost a month after he did, all he can say when pressed for documents on Lacson's money laundering, is, "Prove me wrong," and "I did it to stop 'narco-politics' from engulfing government." It won't do.

This is not a popularity contest to be won by surveys showing whether the public believes Corpus or Lacson. This is a matter of observing due process, which has tremendous implications for this country's freedoms.

We drop the ball in the case against Lacson, and we may not blame the Senate, the opposition, and "narco-politics" for it. We may only blame ourselves. A fight is not won by merely being right, it is won by doing things right. So far, Corpus rates an "A" for effort, but a "D" for results.

I would most earnestly suggest that rather than wasting our energies to making Lacson go away, we devote them instead to giving ourselves an ironclad reason to put him away.

Gov't sees smaller budget deficit this quarter

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ADMISSION of PNP Sgt. Juanito Pascual at yesterday's joint Senate hearings on the Panfilo Lacson drug-trafficking case that he didn't report to his superiors the allegation of a Chinese drug smuggler named Raymond Tan because he was afraid reminded many of a similar admission of witness Emma Lim during the Senate impeachment trial eight months ago. Pascual claimed that Tan told him, after 365 kilos of shabu was apprehended by the PNP in Sariaya, Quezon, in September last year, that the shipment belonged to Lacson. Queried by the senators, including Lacson himself, why he did not report the allegation to his superiors, he said simply that he was afraid. Pressed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to explain why he was afraid, Pascual said that this was because Lacson was then head of the PAOCTF.

* * *

In fairness to Lacson, Tan could have merely dropped his name to get out of the fix. But the policeman's fear is quite understandable, even assuming that Lacson was truly not involved in that drug shipment. Lacson has built up a reputation as someone to be feared.

As for Mary Ong, one of Lacson's key henchmen, Chief Supt. Rey Acop, took great pains to paint her as a drug smuggler, *estafador*, etc. But Acop must realize that the public never had any illusions that she was a saint before turning into a witness for the ISAFP. Despite her colored background, Rosebud sounded more credible to the public in her allegations about him and his former boss.

* * *

The charges against Lacson are very difficult to prove, especially the money-laundering issue, since, as Col. Victor Corpus said, the bank accounts could be well-hidden in what's called the "private banking" of banks like Citibank. Corpus pointed out that the secret accounts of Raul Salinas, the brother of Mexico's former president, who was finally jailed for drug-trafficking, money-laundering and other crimes, didn't surface until much later, despite efforts of the US Congress to crack them open. Moreover, as Ador Mawanay's lawyer, Argee Guevara, noted in his BusinessWorld column recently, if the Senate would accept "only official receipts reflecting consummated drug transactions by those involved," it might as well insist on "subpoenas to *boticas* and drugstores" and "engagement letters" between assassins and their principals.

* * *

One of the things that came out from the hearings is that the landing of prohibited drugs in various points of this country continues to be a frightful reality. The Sariaya drug bust last year was one of the biggest, if not the biggest, in the country. Recently there were report of another big drug landing in Dinapigui, Isabela, a town facing the Pacific Ocean and cut off from the rest of the province by the Sierra Madre mountain range. Fr. Raul Enriquez, who is with the church in Lucena and Sariaya, told this columnist a few months back about the horrible proliferation of drugs in his area, with the dealers targeting especially young schoolchildren who are enticed to try drugs at an affordable P10 a shot. Some 1.8 million Filipinos are said to have become drug-dependent. The drug menace is so frightening that our lawmakers and law-enforcement agencies must confront it with an iron hand and will.

* * *

In Brunei one of the points President Macapagal proudly emphasized to the Bruneian businessmen during their dialogue with Philippine officials and businessmen was the reduction by her administration of the huge budget deficit she inherited from Joseph Estrada. She said this was proof that she and the Cabinet were serious about running the government more efficiently. Ms Macapagal repeated this to the media during the National Press Club's President's Night last week. She said that at this time of the year, the government should be having a deficit of P93 billion, if last year's P143-billion budget deficit were to be followed. But she said that due to the government's belt-tightening program and more efficient tax collection, it was able to reduce the deficit as of this quarter to only P82 billion, so that there's "head-room" of about P11 billion.

* * *

Another good news is the current belt-tightening in Congress. Rep. Ace Barbers pointed out the other day that the members of Congress have been practicing austerity in many ways, like holding of committee hearings at the Batasan instead of in five-star hotels. But apparently the austerity measures are creating some discontentment among some House members who miss the good old days.

We citizens are happy about this move on the part of the House, although there might be some validity to Rep. Raul Gonzales' observation that perhaps the House is carrying it too far by serving witnesses at hearings only cookies and coffee, and not lunch. *Masyado namang nakakahiya ito,* said Gonzales.

* * *

One of those who joined our large delegation to Taiwan on the invitation of a Buddhist group there was business executive Fernando Peña, who flew direct from East Timor to Taipei via Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. Fernando gave us fresh news about how the 640-member Filipino military-police contingent in Timor is faring. Together with Augusto Miclat, he had led members of the Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) and the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID) as observers in the recent elections for the constitutional assembly. The Pinoy observers met with the future president, Xanana Gusmao, and foreign minister-designate, Jose Ramos Horta. Both, he said, had generous praises for President Macapagal and the Filipino people.

* * *

Peña related that a highlight of the contingent's trip to East Timor was a visit to "Kampo Filipino," where the Filipino soldiers are billeted. The Filipino military-PNP contingent, part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force, is known as the workhorse of the UN command. "Our volunteers were all proud to see the Pinoy soldiers and PNP wearing the UN blue berets and showing off the best in the Filipino," he said. The whole of East Timor was all praises for the Philippine Battalion Band as it performed classical and popular music for its international audience, he said.

By the way, the Pinoys were the only soldiers in the international assembly of military units in East Timor to have arrived there by sea aboard an LST, just like in the Normandy invasion over 56 years ago! Kampo Filipino is headed by Col. Allan C. Bantuyan from Cebu, Maj. Esteban Fajardo from Bicol, Maj. Henry Barbers of Manila, Lt. Commander Nieva and Lieutenant Batan.

Why drag Ang See into Rosebud's mess?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S puzzling why "Rosebud" Ong should drag into the controversy created by her testimony the name of Teresita Ang See, who is known to the public as an anti-crime, specifically anti-kidnapping, crusader.

Ang See, who was a leading scholar of Chinese-Filipino culture long before she was catapulted to the limelight as a spokesperson for kidnap victims among the Chinese-Filipino community, is now in Europe to attend a scholarly conference. Otherwise, she would have been able to refute the charges leveled against her by Ong.

One of the accusations Ong has brought up is that a tape showing the torture and killing of suspected Chinese triad drug dealers was given by Sen. Panfilo Lacson to Ang See. When Ong asked Ang See for a copy of the tape to be used as evidence in the Senate hearings, Ang See told her that she didn't have the tape. Now it turns out that the tape was turned over to former Narcom Director Rey Acop, who used it in turn to refute assertions that Ong made before the Senate.

"Why drag me into this when I haven't even met her?" Ang See asked me when we met the other day, referring to the now-controversial "Rosebud." Ang See added that there was no way she could have turned over a tape from Lacson to Acop "because I haven't seen Acop since 1999."

Ang See has lately landed in the headlines again because of an upsurge in kidnappings, with the number of abductions rising by 90 percent, according to PNP statistics. Ang See was quite vocal in denouncing the renewed targeting of Chinese-Filipinos and even of Chinese engineers working in Mindanao on a development project. The afternoon we met, she was scheduled to speak before the anxious parents of students of an exclusive school for girls, from where one student was recently kidnapped by someone using an authentic "fetcher's card."

* * *

PERHAPS this is why Ong has labeled Ang See as being "pro Lacson." Ang See, after all, has been vocal in her comparisons of the crime situation between the time when the PNP was under Lacson and the present under PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza. Is it by accident that crimes which we thought had waned, such as kidnapping and bank robberies, are "enjoying" a resurgence?

Ang See and another anti-crime advocate, Carina Agarao of the Crusaders Against Violence, moved heaven and earth to block the appointment of Mendoza, who rose to the top PNP post by virtue of his early defection to the side of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Edsa II protests. In the wake of their vocal criticisms, both women were subject to scathing criticism and "below the belt" speculations and innuendo. Are Ong's barbs a mere continuation of the demolition job against Ang See?

A former police officer observes that when Ong first went public with her exposé, she was intent only on denouncing the nefarious activities of Supt. John Campos, her former "handler" and, as she claims and which Campos has had to admit, her former lover as well. Her revelations reached only as high as Acop, with Lacson only peripherally mentioned.

The officer claims that it was only after Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, who certainly has an axe to grind against Lacson, became Ong's handler that she began to link Lacson to drug dealing and crimes like kidnapping and salvaging.

It may well be possible that Ang See has been dragged into this mess at the behest of her handler's superiors. If so, then the Senate hearings are no longer "in aid of legislation" or an investigation into matters of national security, but cheap political vendetta that seeks to tar innocent people by snide and gratuitous innuendo.

* * *

HEADLINES on the UN Conference against Racism held in Durban, South Africa, have focused on the departure of the delegations from the United States and Israel to protest language in the conference declaration likening Zionism to racism.

This is unfortunate, since it puts political color on the rest of the conference proceedings, which sought to address an issue that has been too often in the past swept under the rug in discussions on disparities between nations and of peoples within common borders. Too often, documents out of the Durban conference indicate, racism merely deepens discrimination against persons based on other factors, especially gender.

Radhka Coomaraswany, the UN special rapporteur on violence against women, said race and gender compounds the victimization of many women in marginalized groups, who are often accused of making false accusations when they are victims of violence. In the state of Georgia in the United States, Coomaraswany said, African-American women compromise 65 percent of the female prison population though they constitute about 20 percent of the female population. In New York, 82 percent of incarcerated Latino women are detained on drug offenses, often by implication through the men in their lives.

* * *

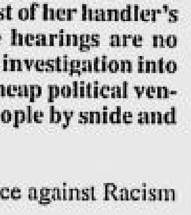
WE CAN cite a similar situation here. The majority of the women on death row and in the women's correctional are there after they were convicted of drugs charges. For the most part, they were acting as couriers or "mules," and were often the only ones among a wide network of drug dealers to be arrested, tried and jailed. The fact is that in the pecking order of the networks, the "mules" earn the least and are the most vulnerable, and know very little about how the operation works.

This is not to say that these women are necessarily innocent, or that they are blameless or should not bear any responsibility for the wide-ranging damage that drugs wreak on our society. Only that they seem to be carrying an inordinate proportion of blame and punishment for the proliferation of illegal drugs when so many others are far more guilty, and making far more money on it.

'Xiu Xiu,' Wu, Oung on my mind

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



MANY people, including myself, have been so agitated this past week and until now because of what has been going on—the exposés on drugs, the way the Senate investigations have been conducted, etc. And it does not help that I'm getting calls and letters from people I know and don't know about a major stink here or a minor stink there. And they're not referring to garbage. I do not wish to mention what these odoriferous issues are so as not to alert the culprits.

These are all vexations to the spirit one must live with. One looks to the ways of the ancients to tame one's thoughts and feelings and succeeds only a little.

But there have been rainbows, among them the Ramon Magsaysay Awards and this year's bunch who have exhibited "greatness of spirit" while doing service to the people. Among the seven, it was the award recipient for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, Sri Lanka's W. D. Amaradeva that I chose to write a feature on.

Oh, they have all done great things in their respective areas—China's Yuan Longping for rice, India's Rajendra Singh for water, China's Wu Qing for women, Japan's Ikuo Hirayama for culture and peace, Cambodia's Oung Chanthol for battered women and Indonesia's Sita Indah Sari for labor.

But my arbitrary choice of Amaradeva was I think some kind of refuge-seeking mechanism, a moving away, even for just a while, from the earth-shaking, life threatening issues of this world to the fine, subtle things that move the spirit and create bonds—music, beauty, music. It's been a while since I poked around this lush wilderness and listened—not only to music per se but to the hows of it. Even for only a moment, I could hear my soul make a shift. It's like switching from heavy rock (which Amaradeva calls "turbulent music" but music nonetheless) to the *kulintang*. Or from the mesmerizing music in the movie "Moulin Rouge" (vertical music I should say) to the silken Chinese violin sound (horizontal) in "Xiu Xiu."

While watching "Xiu Xiu, The Sent-down Girl" the other day, the two women RM Award recipients—China's Wu and Cambodia's Oung—came to my mind. How I wish they were there for this Xiu Xiu. How many Xiu Xius are still out there now? But thanks to people like Wu and Oung, many have been saved.

"Xiu Xiu" is about a city girl who grows into her teens in the 1970s during Mao's Cultural Revolution in China. Xiu Xiu is the apple of the eye of her tailor father, her mother and her younger sister. But like the seven million youngsters at the time, Xiu Xiu is rural-bound to learn from the peasantry. Her mother packs for her a supply of toilet paper and homemade feminine napkins.

After a time in rural Sichuan, Xiu Xiu is "sent down" alone to a remote Tibetan area to learn horsemanship and herding. Is that really the reason why she is being sent there? Xiu Xiu lives in a tent standing in the middle of a yawning vastness. Her sole companion is Lao Jin, the master herder, a very solitary man and the laughing stock of machos because "he lost his manhood with one slice of a sharp knife."

Xiu Xiu has only Lao Jin, the horses and the small flowers of the windswept plains. And her kaleidoscope, a gift from a suitor. It is in this desolate landscape that Xiu Xiu and Lao Jin subtly discover many things about themselves and each other.

The rugged Lao Jin is captivated by Xiu Xiu's frail innocence and puts up with the teener's occasional petulance. He would take his horse and go many miles to get her bath water from a winding river that gleams, from a distance, like a silver ribbon in the moonlight. And to Xiu Xiu's delight, Lao Jin even digs for her an outdoor bathtub from where she could look at the sky and the wide expanse that has claimed her and from where she could perhaps not go home again. Lots of metaphorical ablutions here.

Is it remembered pain, is it nostalgia for his lost manhood, is it simply fondness that draws Lao Jin to Xiu Xiu and makes him protective of her? Is he her protector?

And then men start visiting—when Lao Jin is away. They come, individually, on horseback, on motorcycles. The very first one, perhaps a party bureaucrat in the countryside, strokes the woman out of Xiu Xiu. He is young, good-looking, not anywhere like the craggy, older Lao Jin. He knows what to do with her. To put it bluntly, Xiu Xiu gives herself away the first time.

The first time, maybe it is her hormones. But later, it is the promise of deliverance. Xiu Xiu learns from the men who ravish her in the tent that most of her peers have gone back to their homes, either because of their influential parents or through some maneuvers with the party powers. The men make promises. She believes.

When Lao Jin confronts her, Xiu Xiu shouts back—what is a girl like her to do? Her beauty and body could pay for her freedom, or so she thinks. Desperately, she tries to reach "the headquarters" only to get lost in the wilderness. Lao Jin saves her.

Fast forward. At the village clinic where an abortion procedure almost kills Xiu Xiu, Lao Jin rants and raves. But that is all he could do. He takes the broken Xiu Xiu home to the damp tent that is their home. Then the snow starts to fall. The whiteness of winter is upon them. It is during this season that Xiu Xiu decides to find a way out. Lao Jin becomes the door to that freedom. It is not what you think it is.

"Xiu Xiu" was the directorial debut of 38-year-old Shanghai-born Joan Chen, the striking star in Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor" and later, in several noted films. "Xiu Xiu" angered the Chinese authorities but won citations around the world. Chen admitted filming illegally in China and promised "never to do it again. That's my apology." But the message had been crisply delivered—a bright generation of Chinese youth had been defiled by Maoist officials.

Father is a priest

YOUNGBLOOD

Larry Jay Ramos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY Dad isn't an ordinary dad. He is special in a way because he is a married priest. Some people think that somehow this is wrong. Others are cool about it. And many just don't mind.

But ours is really just an ordinary family. I'm 22-years old, a commerce graduate of San Beda College. I have four brothers, two of whom are adopted. Our eldest, Bart, is working with the Manila International Airport Authority. He has his own family now. Next is Cris Jr., a graduate of the University of the Philippines who now works for Octoarts EMI. Then there is Marc, who is an engineering student at UP. The latest addition to our family is Seth Joseph who has been with us for almost two years now.

Mom is a businesswoman while Dad manages a credit cooperative. After 20 years in the priesthood, Dad married Mom and they settled down in Obando, not far from another community in Bulacan where he used to be the parish priest. Twenty-five years and five children later, we are still living in the house of my childhood.

I write this piece not because I owe anyone an explanation but to make up for a lost opportunity. My parents and Marc were interviewed recently on national television about our family, and I couldn't join them because I was too shy to face the TV cameras.

Some people keep making a big deal out of my family's ordinary life. In our small town, most people refer to me as "*anak ng pari.*" Different people react differently when they learn of my background. Some are shocked, while others are amazed. Some think it's funny, others look at it with disapproval.

My classmates and friends would usually introduce me to their parents as "*anak ni* father." If someone who doesn't know us asks who I am, people in our town are likely to answer, "*Anak ni* Father Cris. I don't mind, though, because first, it's true, and second, so what?

My classmates and friends are cool about Dad being a married priest. And they like him even more when they get to meet him and find out how nice he is.

But I cannot avoid people who love to tease me about it. And I just laugh it off.

Dad is quite popular among the people who know him. I have met couples who told me that Dad had officiated at their wedding, and they would show me pictures taken on the occasion. I had a teacher who was once served as Dad's sacristan.

Dad has appeared on several TV shows to talk about celibacy and the kind of life married priests are having now. Once when I was a freshman in college he spoke during our retreat and met Father Albert, our retreat master and my professor in theology. Father Albert liked Dad and even invited him to speak in other retreats. Unfortunately, he never got to do that.

People enjoy talking to Dad because of his wacky sense of humor, open-mindedness and generous heart and spirit. He's ready to offer a lending hand even to people he doesn't know. He will lend his money even to those whose only collateral are their words. He never thinks twice before helping. He tells me that maybe one day when we need help, these same people whom we are helping would reciprocate the gesture.

Dad is a good provider. When it comes to our education, he makes sure we have everything we need. That's why he's still working even at his age (he's already 69). He always teaches us the value of education, the importance of prayer and living a clean life, and advises us not to do things we might regret later on in life.

He doesn't interfere with the way we live our lives. He only guides because he trusts us and is aware that we can take care of ourselves. He himself would say that's why he sent us to school.

There are times, though, when he thinks we are going out of control and warns us to make sure we don't do crazy things.

Sometimes we get into his nerves. But then everyone has a temper, isn't it?

I'm not an exemplar of good behavior but I *try* not to do things that will make him angry not because I'm afraid but out of respect for him, a respect that he deserves.

Dad is good to Mom as he is to us his children. They take care of each other. Once when Mom was asked what it was like to be married to a priest, her reply didn't surprise me at all: "No regrets."

Perhaps those two words sum up the condition of our family. Although we are not rich (after all, priests are not trained to earn a living and become wealthy), I can say we are one happy family.

I know the families of other married priests and I have seen the same foundation that Dad has built for his own family. These other families are also happy and their members are close to one another. (They have pretty daughters, too.)

Some of my friends have womanizing fathers and some of them come from broken families. I have friends who are into drugs. I believe these things happen against one's will, but sometimes that's how life is. Given this, don't you think I am lucky to belong to a family like ours?

Perhaps you're curious about my stand on the issue of priestly celibacy. Sorry, but I can't explain it because I don't know much about it. But I'm not against it. It's often said that God has plans for us and maybe—just maybe—this is what God wants for my Dad: for him to be with us and not in church wearing a *sutana*.

I didn't write this piece to heap praise on my Dad. He has his faults, and I'm sure he's aware of them. He has some regrets too, but I'm sure they are not about his decision to leave the priesthood and have his own family. In fact, he never left the priesthood for as the Catholic Church teaches, once a priest, always a priest. "You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek," the Bible says.

I was never ashamed of who I am or who my Dad is. The fact is, I'm always proud of who Dad is and how great a family he helped put together. And the reason our family is great is that Dad is a priest.

If my family's example is anything to go by, I strongly recommend priesthood to every man who intends to get married. (Yeah right. As if...)

THEY SAID

Priest's enduring legacy

"We have lost a man of peace, a man of love, a man of understanding but his vision will continue, his legacy will never die."

—Bai Connie Balindong on murdered Fr. Rufus Halley

No place for hooliganism

"There is no place for hooliganism in the UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines)."

—Chot Reyes on the imposition of penalties on coaches and players who figured in a brawl during a game

Anything for a laugh

"I pride myself in being an actor who will do just about anything for a laugh."

—Hollywood actor Jason Biggs on agreeing to take off his clothes in the movies

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

When does an outbreak become an epidemic?

LETTERS

UP to now, the Department of Health has not declared that there is a dengue epidemic. Officially, the situation is still just an outbreak.

But when does an outbreak become an epidemic? Isn't there an international standard somewhere that we could adopt, so that we could have a quantitative basis in deciding at what point an outbreak becomes an epidemic?

As far as I know, there is no central national database for monitoring and reporting the number of cases, particularly those that happen at the local levels. If there is none, how are we counting the numbers so that we will know that we have already reached epidemic proportions? In this age of cheaper IDD calls, fax machines and instant e-mail, shouldn't local hospitals be required to report incidents to a central national database as they happen?

For purposes of better management, I believe that it would be better to localize the determination of outbreaks and epidemics. That is because the local executives are closer to the problem, and they could have better access to the actual data, as these are gathered in the field, or as the incidents happen. Of course, the DOH could still declare the existence of epidemics on a national scale, if the situation warrants it. Nonetheless, the local health officer is in a better situation to assess the local data, and not the health secretary. City Hall is also in a better position to react to the emergency quicker than Malacañang.

It has been said that dengue kills more people than drug lords and kidnappers combined. Malacañang has been trying to defeat the drug lords and kidnappers for as long as we can remember, even if these two are really local problems that's really the concern of City Hall. Maybe that's where our problem starts, when we are running an archipelago as if it's one giant municipality. Or running Malacañang as if it's one giant City Hall. Perhaps it is time for Malacañang to turn over the frontlines to the commanders who are already in the field.—**RAMON SENERES, Philam Village, Las Piñas**

Why were graft cases against SSS officials filed only now?

THE ALERT and Concerned Employees of the SSS (Access) believes that the graft case filed with the Ombudsman by eight allegedly concerned SSS executives is plain harassment, and that it was motivated not by civic spirit but simple vindictiveness.

The eight executives are still identified with the ousted SSS president Vitaliano N. Nañagas II. It is also interesting to note that they hold very powerful positions: Erlinda del Rosario is vice president for controllership, Antonette L. Fernandez is assistant vice president for internal audit services, Ma. Luz Generoso is assistant vice president for loan programs, May Catherine C. Ciriaco is vice president for management services, Marissu G. Bugante is vice president for public affairs, Maribel Ortiz is assistant vice president for economic research, Virginia Gallarde is assistant vice president for corporate planning, and Aurora Ortega is vice president for operations in the National Capital Region. All of them kept silent and did not do anything at the time these events occurred. Worse, they were present when the alleged purchases were presented to the executive management for approval. Why is it only now, nearly three years after the alleged purchase, that they chose to file the case.

Access has been accused of being silent during the tenure of Carlos Arellano, but Access was not privy to any of these decisions. The eight executives were. So why were they silent then?

Still Access welcomes the investigation so that the innocent will be cleared and the guilty will be punished.—**RAMON SAN ANDRES, vice president for external affairs, national spokesperson, Access, Social Security System**

Hike in veterans' pension suspended

I WISH to bring the attention of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay of the Senate defense committee the worsening plight of pensioners under Jose Lachica, the present administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

The well publicized promise of the President last April 9 that PVAO pensioners will receive their "arrears in pension" from January to July 2001 equivalent to P3,500 per month has not been implemented. A law authored by Rep. Eduardo Pilapil mandated that a PVAO increase yearly will be added to the PVAO pension until their monthly pension reaches P5,000 per month. Presidents Ramos and Estrada religiously implemented the law which took effect in 1994 but I wonder why Ms Macapagal has not done the same.

Another complaint of pensioners is that, like his predecessor, Lachica delays the release of PVAO pensions, which from time of President Marcos had always been released every first week of the month. We can't help but suspect some funny business going on here.

We ask the President to look into this state of affairs at the PVAO, particularly the regular increases we look forward to and the regularity of the release of pension checks.—**ANTONIO CONDE, 18 Quirino Highway, Amparo Village, Caloocan City**

SIBS and Phoenix owned by one person

IN THE SPIRIT of fair, accurate and responsible journalism, we would like to air our sentiments regarding the news story accusing SIBS Publishing House of pirating books by Phoenix Publishing House. As employees of SIBS, we are very disappointed that many failed to get the side of our company regarding this matter.

SIBS Publishing House is a legitimate and highly reputable publishing house and will never pirate books in order to make profits. We have taken great pains in producing high-quality textbooks in the desire to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in our country. By resorting to illegal means, as alleged by some parties, we would have defeated the very purpose of our mission.

In the four years that we "allegedly sold Phoenix books illegally," Phoenix Publishing House and SIBS Publishing House was owned and managed by one person, our late president, Jesus Ernesto Sibal. Thus Phoenix's claim that SIBS has been illegally selling Phoenix books is preposterous.

We believe that our company fell victim to inaccurate reporting and we as employees were maligned in the process. In the news reports, we were pictured as a greedy, fly-by-night publisher, which is farthest from the truth. Through the years that we have been with SIBS Publishing House under the guidance of Jesus Ernesto Sibal, we saw how the company cultivated a good reputation in the private school sector and earned its trust. SIBS Publishing House Inc. does not publish illegally. We serve private schools directly with our sales personnel and customer service department.

We also believe that our company has been unwittingly dragged into another issue concerning pirated public school textbooks. As a clarification, SIBS caters to the private school sector and not the public schools.

Since our former president's untimely demise, we have experienced and hurdled a lot of challenges brought about by the separation of SIBS Publishing House and Phoenix Publishing House. Despite all these, we remain supportive of our company, for we know that the truth will vindicate SIBS Publishing House in the end.—**CONCERNED SIBS EMPLOYEES**

A formula for confusion in school sports activities

SCHOOL superintendents, principals and teachers were of one mind in supporting Chapter 3, Section 9 of the Oreta bill calling for the "transfer of school sports competition program from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)" for two reasons: (a) there will no longer be any undue disruption of classes due to the staging of the lower-level athletic meets leading to the Palarong Pambansa and the Palaro itself; and (b) teachers and pupils will no longer be asked to contribute financially to support athletic delegations participating in the school games.

But it appears that she has failed to address the two issues. She said in a recent statement that "physical education teachers will still be involved in sports meets on all levels (leading to the Palarong Pambansa)" and that "funds for the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa are given not to the education department but to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)."

"If the lower level athletic meets will still be organized by the education department "in coordination with the PSC which will be the prime mover in all sports activities" and, "the PSC will have to coordinate with the DILG for the release and judicious use of these (Palarong Pambansa) funds," as Oreta said, these provisions in the implementing guidelines of the law will needlessly complicate the implementation of a school curricular program which the education department had successfully been doing for the past 50 years. With three government agencies involved in a purely school activity, the education department organizing school sports competitions under the supervision of the PSC and the DILG dispensing the funds, we have a situation here where the proverbial bureaucratic channels of command and red tape will wreak havoc on a youth sports development program.—**APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Standing by Loren Legarda

WE find the accusations against Sen. Loren Legarda by Ador Mawanay regarding her involvement in the alleged smuggling of 1000 cellular phones totally ludicrous. Her angry reaction to his accusation indicated that she was caught off-guard by its absurdity. To incessantly bring up her unabashed response is petty quibbling and nitpicking, in disregard of her contributions and staunch commitment to good governance.

During her short political career, Legarda has established herself as a leader and stateswoman to reckon with. This was demonstrated when:

1. Early in her incumbency she exhibited boldness and tenacity in following her conscience and judgment to vote against the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), despite the advice of close kin and friends that she would incur the displeasure of the leadership at that time.

2. She worked tirelessly for the release of NPA captives at a time when some of her own colleagues were accusing her of high treason for meeting with leftist leaders. She persisted because of her deep sense of humanitarian values and desire to contribute to a lasting peace in the country.

3. The sharpness with which she interrogated witnesses during the impeachment trial demonstrated that she wanted to get to the truth about corruption in high places and expose it, prompting her to vote for the opening of that controversial "Jose Velarde" envelope, the event that later made history. For this, she earned the respect of the Filipino public, as opinion surveys have amply shown.

Legarda can stand by the solid evidence that Nokia has presented: that the cellular-phone model in question had not yet been launched during the period Mawanay said the alleged smuggling took place. Thus, it is understandable that she reacted rather strongly when Mawanay unjustly accused her of such a crime.

The fact that she took it upon herself to raise the issue was her way of taking the bull by the horns for the sake of transparency and clearing any doubts about her integrity.

We have known Ms Legarda for many years. As a student, journalist and now as a senator, we know her intimately enough to say that she is not only harsh and demanding on herself, but more importantly, she consistently lives by her principles and values.

We therefore stand firm in our belief in her innocence. We further hope that this injustice inflicted on her will come to an end as soon as possible.—**WITH 34 SIGNATORIES, Concerned Friends of Sen. Loren Legarda, c/o 34 Victoria St., Magallanes Village, Makati City**

Is this the sum of our national life?

I HAVE been an avid INQUIRER reader, but these days I find nothing but negative headlines in your paper. I am not blaming the paper; it's a business and you have to earn a profit. You need eye-catching headlines to sell the paper. Pride, nationalism and feeling is no longer in your vocabulary.

But we have some opinions that trouble our hearts and raise questions in our minds. We do not know where we are going. We can not understand what we Filipinos are doing now. We have survived a couple of uprisings. We claim to have won our freedom from the Spaniards and Americans. We fought the Japanese invaders. We succeeded in our quest to restore democracy after the Edsa People Power Revolution. Now what? Have we achieved our objectives?

Those who marched in the streets against people in power who were said to be abusive, corrupt and immoral became the target of marches and protests after they became the people in power too. Some so-called principled people, new politicians perceived to be non-traditional in 1986, became worse than those ejected from Malacañang by Edsa I.

Now, we are seeing the same cycle after the so-called Edsa II. What's happening now? Where are we going?

All we find in newspapers, hear on the radio or see on TV are killings, kidnappings, the worsening drug problem, corruption, accusations of wrongdoing against elected officials and questionable court decisions. All these and natural disasters are all we have.

Is this the sum of our national life? Can't we have some good news? Don't we deserve better headlines than what we have now?

Is this the real Filipino situation? Is this us?—**MOHAMMAD HASSAN NASSER, Sirawan, Toril, Davao City**

Too much politics in the Senate

POLITICS is rearing its ugly head again in the halls of the Senate. It may take a while before the Senate can buckle down to legislative business because its members, or at least the majority of them, are embroiled in power play. This is Philippine politics at its finest.

The patience of Juan de la Cruz is wearing thin. We have heard and seen enough of politics. It's high time our legislators focused their efforts on doing their job knowing they are being paid with taxpayers' money.

We do not care who's the Senate president or who chairs what. What people want to see is a Senate at work without the endless bickering, grandstanding, credit-grabbing and what have you. Neither do we want to see legislators boasting about their accomplishments because they're mandated to do those things.

Speaking of legislation, I wonder how many millions were spent to enact a law that is as basic and simple as the one mandating the use of seatbelts and how many so-called "landmark" measures have actually improved the lot of marginalized Filipinos.

Will somebody tell our legislators not to trivialize their position by engaging in endless debates which make Juan de la Cruz shriek in dismay?—**JUN AGUILAR, Marikina City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

From Sangley to Chinoy

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

INQUIRER's readers' advocate Raul J. Palabrica has referred twice to inquiries from readers about the correct term for "Filipinos of Chinese parentage"—Chinese-Filipino or Filipino-Chinese? Generally, as our advocate points out, INQUIRER uses "Chinese-Filipino" or Chinoy.

I thought I should jump into the fray and explain the variety of terms that have been used over the centuries, and the reason "Chinese-Filipino" or Chinoy is now preferred.

When the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines they noted that the natives were already using a term—"Sangley"—to refer to the Chinese. Francisco de Sande, writing in 1576, noted that "Throughout these islands they call the Chinese 'Sangleyes,' meaning 'a people who come and go...'".

The term actually came from two Hokkien Chinese terms: *shang* (business) and *lai* (coming), most probably a reference to the early Chinese travelling merchants. (Hokkien is the Chinese dialect spoken in the southeastern province of Fujian. Most ethnic Chinese in the Philippines can trace their roots back to that province.)

The Spaniards introduced the term "*Chino*" but continued to use "*Sangley*." As recently as 1972, Jose Villa Panganiban still listed "*sanglay*" as a word meaning "Chinese" in his classic Tagalog-English dictionary, but the word seems to have fallen from use a long time back, replaced by "*Intsik*."

I was not able to trace when "Intsik" began to be used, but the word is clearly derived from Hokkien Chinese. The story is that when the Chinese were asked how they wanted to be called, they answered "*din chiek*" (your uncle) or "*in chiek*" (their uncle). "*Intsik*" was originally a term of respect, with a similar word, "*Encik*"(pronounced en-chik) still used in Malaysia to refer to men of high status, whether or not they are of Chinese ethnicity.

In the 20th century, under the Americans, the term "Chinese" began to be used, although sometimes you also find references to "Chinamen"—a term borrowed from the Americans, "Chinaman," however, has pejorative connotations; it is used in the United States with a tone of derision. The term is almost as bad as saying "nigger" to refer to African-Americans.

Over time, "Intsik" took on negative connotations. Like "Chinaman," the pejorative qualities of "*Intsik*" came in the way it was used. From a term of respect, it began to be used to jeer or taunt the Chinese, as in "*Intsik beho*." (*Beho* is a corruption of the Spanish *viejo*, meaning old. It has extended meanings of being old and decrepit.)

Note that the names I've been using all refer to the Chinese as "Chinese." This is because many of the Chinese who came to the Philippines before the 20th century came only for short periods of time, shuttling between the Philippines and China, with their identity remaining primarily Chinese.

Some of these early Chinese visitors did stay, marrying *indio* women in the Philippines. In the 19th century, the Chinese *mestizos* were becoming quite powerful, economically and politically. Jose Rizal was a fifth generation Chinese *mestizo* and was among those who dared to expropriate the term "Filipino," which was previously reserved for Spaniards born in the Philippines, to refer to themselves.

While the Chinese *mestizos* were becoming Filipinized, new waves of Chinese migrants continued to stream in through the 19th and 20th centuries. The term "Philippine Chinese" and "Filipino Chinese" began to be used in the early part of the 20th century, mainly for association names. For example, in 1931 the Chinese organized the Federation of Philippine Chinese National Salvation Associations to protest Japan's invasion of Manchuria. We also have the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industries which still exists today.

Whether "Philippine Chinese," "Filipino Chinese" or "Fil-Chi," all these terms are direct translations of two Chinese words, "*Fei Hua*," meaning Chinese (*hua*) in the Philippines (*Fei*). The primary identity here is clearly "Chinese" although the use of the term "Filipino" suggests a growing sense of belonging to the Philippines.

After the Philippines regained independence in 1946, many Chinese became naturalized Filipino citizens. The children of these new citizens were born and raised in the Philippines and had Filipino citizenship from birth. It was in this context that another term—"Chinese-Filipino"—began to emerge, the term popularized to a large extent by the work of Tessie Ang See and the Kaisa Foundation in the last decade.

"Chinese-Filipino" reflects the sense of Filipino as a primary identity, with "Chinese" as an adjective, referring more to a heritage. It is similar to the way "Filipino-Americans" see themselves mainly as American, but with a Filipino cultural heritage.

To further underscore the primacy of a Filipino identity, the term Tsinoy was derived from the Spanish-Tagalog word "*Tsino*" and the Tagalog slang word "*Pinoy*." The INQUIRER's preferred spelling of Chinoy is a variant, combining the English word "Chinese" and "*Pinoy*."

Terms are terms, names are names. These days Chinese surnames jump at you from newspapers, radio and television, and I find myself feeling proud one moment and ashamed the next, depending on what's being reported. The Chinese have indeed become part of Philippine society, complete with all its contradictions and paradoxes. But being part of Philippine society is different from being Filipino. History, and time, will be the judge as to who among the *Intsik*, the Filipino-Chinese, the Chinese-Filipino, even among the "Filipino Filipinos," are indeed Filipino.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Suspected money launderer linked to Burmese drug army

BANGKOK—A prime suspect in a recently-uncovered money laundering scam is deeply involved in black market trade with Burma's leading drug army, a Thai Army commander on the Thai-Burma border said yesterday.

The Thai Economic Crime Investigation Division issued arrest warrants yesterday for the suspect, Rosarin Chorpradit, and her husband Pichet on charges of illegally transferring $222 million overseas, police said. Their whereabouts are not known.

"This woman, Rosarin, has used the name of influential figures to smuggle fuel and other strategic supplies to the Wa," Gen. Wattanachai Chaimuenwong, the Third Army commander, told reporters.

He was referring to the United Wa State Army which Thai authorities say produce most of the illegal drugs sold on the streets of Thailand. The Wa Army has virtual autonomy in areas of eastern Burma bordering Thailand.

Wattanachai said that on several occasions, Rosarin managed to evade Thai restrictions on sending supplies to that region of Burma, by shipping oil and other goods via Laos. Supplies had gone to the Wa base of Mong Yawn, he said.

The Army had stopped her from exporting directly to the Wa controlled areas, but could do nothing when she started exportings via Laos, Wattanachai said.

On Friday, Rosarin's younger sister, Sirinra Mahamad, an executive of UOB Radanasin Bank, was arrested in Bangkok and charged with violating foreign exchange laws, in connection with the transfer of the $222 million.

Police say the money was sent from three Thai companies where Rosarin and her husband were major shareholders—Eastern Petropower, Ratanakosin International and Thanasap Tavee—to unnamed overseas creditors in the United States, Hong Kong, China and Singapore between 1997 and 2000.

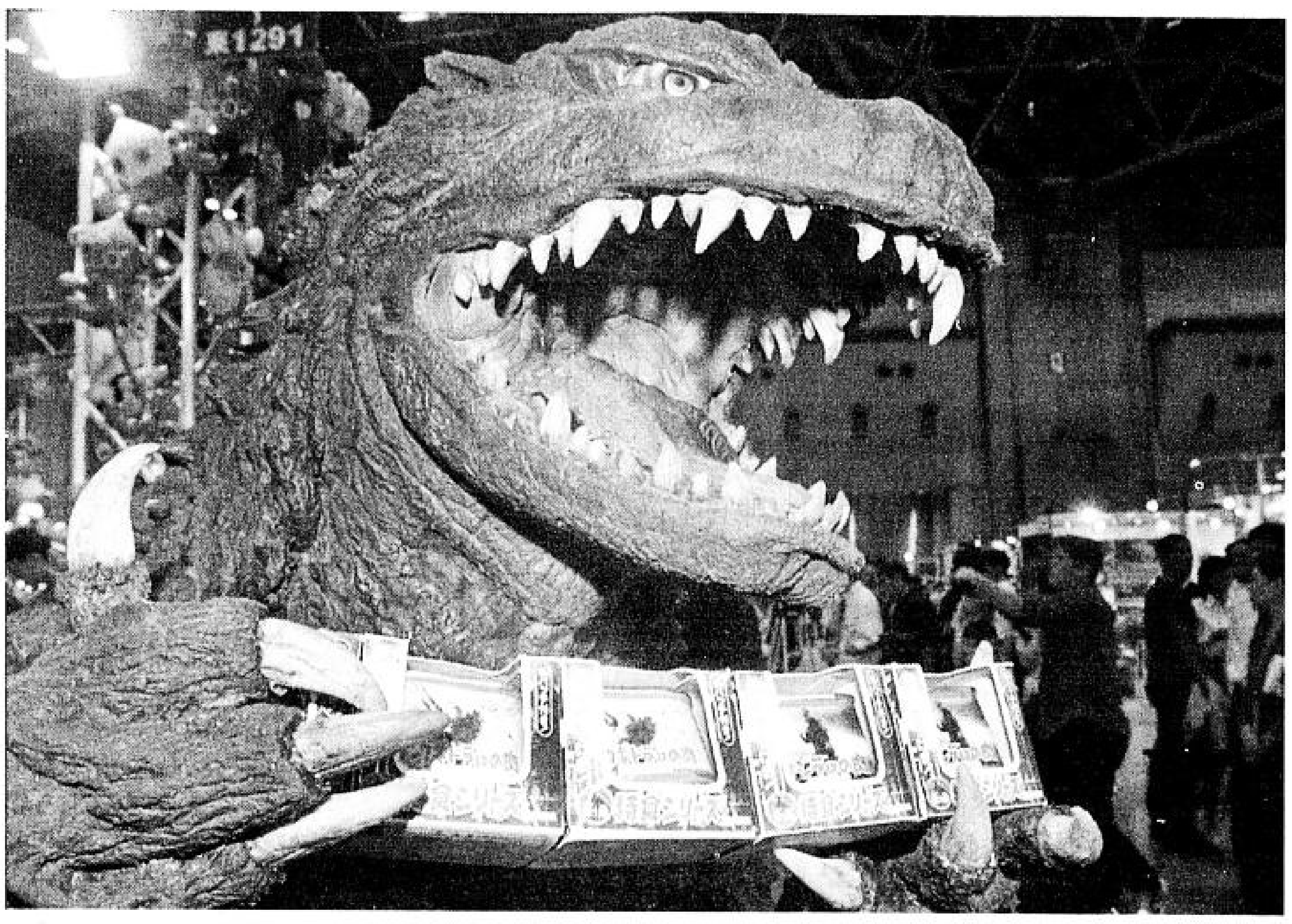
Wattanachai said Rosarin claimed to have close links to the previous government of former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai whose party lost during the elections in January.

Photos of her posing with Chuan and a minister in his Cabinet have been printed in the Thai press in recent days. Chuan has denied any links with Rosarin or knowledge of her financial dealings.

Thai banks have long been suspected to be a conduit for illegal proceeds from the drug trade. Burma, also known as Myanmar, is a major producer of opium, heroin and synthetic drugs like methamphetamines, that are widely sold in Thailand.

Last week Thai authorities arrested five suspects for laundering $1.6 million via the Stock Exchange of Thailand and froze another $1.1 million hours before it was to be invested on the bourse.

In a separate case, the Narcotics Suppression Bureau confiscated about $3.4 million Monday in cash and money in bank accounts of suspected drugs trafficker allegedly linked to the Wa Army. *AP*



MONSTERS IN CANS AP

A godzilla displays cans of "his own meat," at an international gift show in Tokyo on Sept. 5. The 500 yen ($4.17) cans from Tokyo toymaker Takara Co. come in six different wrappings, each with a monster such as Mothra and Radon. But they come in only two flavors, corned beef and quail eggs. The cans with labels of Japan's most famous radioactive reptile go on sale in Japan in November.

Search launched for Great Flood site

SOFIA, Bulgaria—Could it be that Noah's Ark lies well preserved somewhere in the inky depths of the Black Sea?

A joint US-Bulgarian scientific expedition is combing the Black Sea for traces of a lost civilization—a mission that could shed more light on the controversial timing and site of the biblical Great Flood.

Under the supervision of American underwater explorer and Titanic discoverer Robert Ballard, the team of 19 scientists left the port city of Varna, about 500 km east of Sofia, in mid-August. Their ship, the "Akademik," will use sonar technology to search the mouths of the Provadiyska and Kamchia rivers.

During their 30-day expedition, they will search for undersea evidence of human habitation in the Black Sea region before the flood described in the Old Testament book of Genesis. The Bible says Noah built an ark in which he, his family and living creatures of every kind survived the flood. Numerous towns are believed to have been situated along both rivers.

Some scientists theorize that a society predating those of Egypt and Mesopotamia was submerged by the Black Sea at the time of a massive flood 7,600 years ago. The flood transformed a stillwater lake into the saltwater sea.

Ballard, a National Geographic Society explorer-in-residence, is best known for finding the remains of the sunken Titanic in 1985. He also operates the Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut. Three years ago, he found indications of an ancient coastline kilometers offshore from the current Black Sea coast.

Although he didn't join the current expedition, Ballard is in constant satellite communication with the crew. Ballard said that if the expedition was successful, he'll return in 2003, when he would to continue the search with Hercules, a robot being developed for underwater archaeological excavations.

The expedition is sponsored by the National Geographic Society, which is planning a book and television programs on Ballard's Black Sea research.

"We are looking for evidence of settlements where people had been living before the flood," Ballard told journalists during a brief stay in Bulgaria ahead of the expedition. Flooding occurred all over the world 7,600 years ago, he said, but "this was the flood of floods." *AP*

S. Korea mystified by North's talks offer

SEOUL—South Korea is mystified why the rival North has suddenly offered new talks but is determined to stop the peace process from "backsliding," Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo said yesterday.

But Han admitted President Kim Dae-jung would face a battle to stop his "Sunshine Policy" of engaging the communist state becoming a political football ahead of next year's presidential election.

North Korea offered this week to hold new talks "at an early date" after a six-month freeze on contacts.

But widespread suspicions were raised that the North made the offer just to influence a national assembly vote of no confidence in Unification Minister Lim Dong-won.

Lim lost the vote and the whole South Korean Cabinet resigned Tuesday. Because of Lim's special role as the main policymaker on North Korea, doubts have been raised about President Kim's ability to pursue the policy which earned him last year's Nobel Peace Prize.

"I don't know why North Korea made this offer now," Han told a press conference. "But I think it is time that North Korea thought seriously about resuming talks with South Korea."

"I like to interpret this in a more reconciliatory way. North Korea has everything to gain from trying to have better relations with South Korea," said Han, who newspapers have said will keep his post in the new government.

Despite improvements in relations that came with the summit between their leaders last year, North Korea broke of contacts in March amid worsening relations with the United States.

Highlighting the president's determination to pursue efforts to end the Cold War on the Korean peninsula, Han said: "We believe it is in everybody's interests, including Pyongyang's, to prevent the engagement process from backsliding."

"We very much hope that this will be followed up by further moves on the part of North Korea so that the two Koreas can work together to keep the momentum for peace alive." *AFP*

Can laughter relieve pain, help healing?

CHICAGO—Imagine a painkiller that could treat a variety of ailments, available without a prescription, whose only side effects are chuckles, giggles and maybe even guffaws.

The cost? At most, the price of a video.

UCLA researchers are hoping humor will prove to be a miracle pill in a study examining a tantalizing premise: What if something that makes you feel good can stop you from feeling bad?

They're testing the theory in a pain lab at UCLA Medical Center, where healthy children are asked to submerge their hands in frigid ice water.

Watching videos ranging from clips of old Marx Brothers' films to "The Simpsons" helps the youngsters endure the ice bath. The researchers hope it ultimately will help ease the pain of kids sick with cancer and other debilitating diseases, and maybe even help them heal.

Preliminary results indicate the kids watching funny videos were able to keep their hands in the ice bath 40 percent longer.

The idea for the study came from a former TV sitcom executive.

It was an instant hit with Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, a pediatric pain specialist, and colleague Dr. Margaret Stuber, a UCLA psychiatry professor.

"We looked at each other and said, 'Gee, why didn't we think of this,'" Zeltzer said. "It makes perfect sense."

Some researchers believe humor works simply as a distraction. They point out that other studies have shown that other kinds of emotion—even sadness or disgust—have a similar effect.

Stuber calls that "a very legitimate question," but says there are suggestions that humor may be able to produce more long-term changes.

The notion that humor might actually produce healing-enhancing changes in the body is gaining respect among some scientists in a field called psychoneuroimmunology, which studies interactions between the brain and the body's disease-fighting immune system.

ZACHARY Ament, 11, puts his hand into ice water as part of Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer's research project. AP

Prominent humor-health researcher Lee Berk says the notion that entertainment may be healing is actually very old, dating at least to the ancient Greeks, who used to build hospitals next to amphitheaters for the benefit of patients.

Berk, assistant adjunct professor of family medicine at the University of California at Irvine, says he coined the term eustress—'eu' meaning 'good' in Greek—to define what happens to the body when it feels mirthful, or the opposite of stress.

In a stressful or painful situation, the body increases production of stress hormones such as cortisol and epinephrine. That in turn causes an increase in heart rate and blood pressure.

Research has shown that stress can also inhibit the body's immune system and make people prone to illness. Some studies also suggest that humor just might have the opposite effect.

A Japanese study published earlier this year in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that skin welts shrank in allergy patients who watched Charlie Chaplin's comedic classic "Modern Times."

And Maryland researchers reported last year that people with healthy hearts were more likely to laugh in humorous situations than people with heart disease. Though the finding may simply suggest that having heart disease makes people feel less like laughing, the scientists think it also could mean that having a sense of humor somehow protects the heart.

"Maybe science is starting to catch up to intuition," said Berk.

The late journalist-author Norman Cousins laid the groundwork with his pioneering 1979 book, "Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient," describing how laughter helped reduce his pain from a debilitating joint disease called ankylosing spondylitis.

Berk, who was among the first to use science to help explain Cousins' findings, has a cartoon he likes to show people, depicting a doctor telling a patient, "Take two Laurel and Hardy tapes and one Abbott and Costello and call me in the morning." *AP*

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Entrance Fee: Php 50
CAREER COUNSELING & GUIDANCE FAIR 2001
September 13-15, 2001 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
PHILIPPINE TRADE AND TRAINING CENTER
(Roxas Boulevard, Beside World Trade Center)
BUY & SELL
Skyline
AMSPEC
MAJOR EXHIBITORS
MAPÚA TECH A YGC Company
LASALLE COLLEGE GROUP
BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY
TRADE NEW ZEALAND
AIT AIT TAFE CENTRE
Bellerbys College
AIESEC
mitc
Southern New Hampshire University
Swiss Hotel Association Hotel Management School LES ROCHES
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYSGOL CAERDYD
CAP COLLEGE
ESTEBAN
StudyGroup
LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY
COLUMBIA COLLEGE
SCHILLER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Also Available : Embassy Scholarships
For Additional Information:
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
2nd Floor, Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village,
City of Makati, 1227, Metro Manila
Tels: (632) 819-1001, 819-1002, 816-3040, 812-8996
Fax No: (632) 810-2825
Email : interedu@info.com.ph Website at: www.inter-ed.com
Since 1990
Attention : PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS .... MAKE THIS IMPORTANT DECISION FOR YOUR FUTURE!!

Colombia rebels accused of using poison gas

REMEMBERING MOTHER TERESA AP

Nuns pray around the tomb of Mother Teresa on her fourth death anniversary at the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, on Sept. 5. Mother Teresa, Nobel laureate and founder of the order died in Calcutta in 1997. The Diocesan Commission ended the first phase of inquiry and 35,000 pages of testimony and documents related with the beatification and canonization toward the sainthood of Mother Teresa were submitted to the congregation for the "Causes of Saint" in Rome last month.

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombia's biggest rebel army used gas during an attack on a police station in a southern village, killing four policemen who died slow, agonizing deaths, a police commander said Tuesday.

Biopsies were taken from the four policemen to determine what agent was used, said police Col. Francisco Henry Caicedo. He described the gas as "toxic," but acknowledged it could have been tear gas, which can be lethal in enclosed spaces.

Results of the analysis of the biopsies were not expected for several days. If poisonous gas—and not tear gas—were used, it would be the first known such case in Colombia's 37-year civil war.

Police officers who survived the rebel attack Sunday in San Adolfo, in Huila province 370 km south of Bogota, said rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia had tossed bombs into the police compound that sent dark gray smoke into their bunker and tunnels, according to Caicedo.

"They were suffocating—they couldn't breathe and felt their lungs were going to explode. They were immediately blinded by the gas," Caicedo said.

One police officer died in a hospital in Pitalito, near San Adolfo; another died in the provincial capital of Neiva; a third was airlifted to a Bogota hospital and died; and the fourth was kidnapped by the rebels but collapsed and died in a village near the scene of the attack, Caicedo said.

"They didn't die right away. They died slowly," said Caicedo, who commands National Police forces in Huila province.

Six other police officers who were exposed to the gas were hospitalized in Neiva, but were believed to be out of danger, Caicedo said.

He ruled out the possibility that rebel missiles had cause some toxic material to accidentally break open and leak during the attack.

"It wasn't just one, but several bombs of this type that were thrown," Caicedo said. "Furthermore, no type of chemical substance was stored inside the police station. They only had their weapons."

The bombs, tossed in the station by rebels from an adjacent discotheque, looked like jugs with grenade-like detonators attached, Caicedo said.

National police chief Gen. Ernesto Gilibert said he could not confirm what devices were used and that authorities were investigating. He said it would be "very worrisome" if the rebels were using poisonous gas.

Caicedo said the bodies of the policemen had no visible wounds.

Autopsies were being performed Tuesday, said Dr. Argenis Garavito of the main hospital in Neiva, the provincial capital. The results would be kept confidential because they are part of a judicial investigation, she said.

The FARC had no immediate reply to the accusations.

News and details of the attack in San Adolfo had emerged slowly because radio contact with the police contingent was severed during the fighting. The FARC also blew up several buildings in San Adolfo with missiles.

The FARC has come under increasing criticism for its human rights abuses, including the use of inaccurate, rudimentary bombs made from gas cylinders and the kidnapping and forced recruitment of civilians.

The right-wing paramilitary United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, which is battling the FARC, has also committed abuses, including the massacres of suspected rebel supporters. *AP*

TOY WORLD
funtastic
TOY Sale
Sept. 1-30
up to
50%
Savings
on selected items
Atlantis Action Figures
Before 349.75 ea
Now 174.75 ea
Princess Kida
Milo Tatch
Body Art and Beaded Chains
Before 499.75 ea
Now 349.75 ea
Bead O Rama
Sing and Giggle Pooh
Before 799.75
Now 399.75
Barbie and Kelly Household Wear
Before 499.75
Now 399.75
Back Pack Laa-Laa
Before 799.75
Now 399.75
D23 Hell Scream
Before 349.75
Now 249.75
Bean Bag Pals
Before 299.75 ea
Now 149.75 ea
Pup Cake Odd Ball
Before 299.75
Now 149.75
Pikachu Radio Controlled Car
Before 1,799.75
Now 899.75
Pokémon
Get a chance to
WIN one of
15 Playstations
A minimum P300 purchase entitles shopper to One (1) raffle coupon.
Deadline for submission of entries: Closing store hour of September 30, 2001
Draw Date: October 12, 2001 3pm, Ad & Promo Dept., SM Inc. # 400 C. Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila
Promo Period: September 1 - 30, 2001
SM
We've got it all for you!
DEPARTMENT STORE
See mechanics poster for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2712, Series of 2001
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

WORLDBRIEFS

Compromises

KUALA LUMPUR—After reaching compromises with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Singapore's elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew ended a visit to Malaysia yesterday with hopes for less bilateral bickering between the neighbors. An agreement reached Tuesday by the veteran leaders promises to end five major disputes—over water supply, military air space, immigration facilities, pension savings and the development of railway land—that have bedeviled relations between the two countries for years. Mahathir and Lee said after talks Tuesday that their governments would flesh out details of a comprehensive pact for Mahathir and Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to finalize and sign "as soon as possible." *AP*

Truce efforts

JERUSALEM—Mideast truce efforts picked up Tuesday despite another Palestinian suicide attack, and negotiators said they are preparing a detailed agenda for several rounds of high-level negotiations that could begin this week, on the sidelines of an economic conference in Italy. As part of the groundwork, visiting European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana brought together Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and two senior Palestinian officials Monday night, in the first such contacts in weeks. The preparations came during one of the most intense Palestinian bombing campaigns in more than 11 months of fighting with Israel—albeit one that has caused no fatalities. Tuesday's blast, outside a French school in central Jerusalem, was the fifth in the city in two days. *AP*

Meeting on racism

DURBAN, South Africa—It's not an international treaty. It's not a UN resolution. In fact, it's not a legal document of any kind and nations are free to ignore it completely. But the final declaration to be adopted by the World Conference Against Racism is supposed to carry enormous symbolism, and set an informal standard by which citizens can demand change in their own countries. If successful, the conference could be the first step on a long road to new international law, experts said Tuesday. "You start with a principle, you turn it into a declaration and program of action, then there is an affirmation by governments to take those commitments seriously," Michael Posner, executive director of the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, said. "Then you start passing treaties and laws that are binding." *AP*

News blackout

KABUL, Afghanistan—Three Western diplomats, frustrated by a lack of information about the trial of eight foreign aid workers charged with propagating Christianity, were refused a meeting Wednesday with the Taliban's chief justice. The Chief Justice Noor Mohammed Saqib refused to meet the diplomats saying the court would contact the diplomats if there was any need to meet them. The trial of the two Americans, four Germans and two Australians began in the Supreme Court on Tuesday. *AP*

Last 2 Jews

KABUL, Afghanistan—The Jewish community in Afghanistan was once a proud one, with 40,000 people, flourishing businesses and a distinctive Torah design. But the population eroded through the last century, and recent decades have seen the Soviet invasion, civil war and the rise of the radical Islamic Taliban movement to power. Now, as far as anyone knows, the community has dwindled to just two men—and they dislike each other. What's worse, their sole remaining Torah has been confiscated. Afghanistan's last two Jews—Ishaq Levin and Zebulon Simentov—live at separate ends of the same decaying synagogue in the Afghan capital and are feuding, each claiming to be the rightful owner of the synagogue and its paraphernalia. *AP*

Fiji elections

SUVA, Fiji—A former Fijian prime minister and the coup leader who drove him from office at gunpoint were both elected to Parliament, election officials said Wednesday, in a vote aimed at restoring democracy to this troubled South Pacific nation. Mahendra Chaudhry, who was Fiji's first ethnic Indian prime minister, won his district in the Indian stronghold in the west, election officials said. George Speight also won a seat in the legislature, 16 months after he and a gang of gunmen stormed its debating chamber to overthrow Chaudhry's democratically elected government. *AP*

Carter back in China to push agrarian democracy

BEIJING—He is an elder statesman now, the sandy-haired peanut farmer who signed a document that, 22 years ago, made the United States and mainland China friends again. His eyebrows are snowy, and when he flashes that fabled Georgia grin, wrinkles convene copiously at its corners.

But Jimmy Carter, former president and current optimist, hasn't slowed down. Denied a second term long ago, these days he hammers away at all he holds dear. Topping the list is the seeding of democracy across the world—the reason he has returned to China this week.

A generation on, between writing books and building houses, Carter is still knee-deep in China's destiny, gently deploying his clout to enter places and talk to people no one else could. His verdict: Village-level self-government is breaking out all over the country, and it isn't going away.

"Every year has shown an improvement," Carter, now 76, said Tuesday.

On his eighth visit to China, Carter is quoting China's dead leaders, meeting with its living ones and talking small-town democracy. He's checking in on his nonprofit Carter Center's five-year-old China Villages Election Project, making sure the partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs is putting people in office that their fellow citizens have selected.

On Monday, he met the chair of the National People's Congress. On Thursday, he takes his election advocacy and other matters of import to Chinese President Jiang Zemin. In between, on Wednesday, he visits a farming village near Shanghai to look in on an election.

Carter was a farmer by trade before he waded into politics, and farmers were the underpinning of Thomas Jefferson's ideal of agrarian citizen participation, which shaped American democracy. Now Carter is helping spread that notion to China, which remains 69 percent rural.

Carter, who has monitored elections across the world, emphasizes that he is visiting China as a private citizen, not an envoy. "I'm not a spokesman for the Bush administration," he said at a news conference.

In Beijing, though, the man known as "ka te" remains a symbol of the possibility that China-US relations hold.

"He's always been regarded as a good friend," said Yawei Liu, associate director of the election project. "He has the influence no one else has."

Nixon's crucial visit to China famously opened the door, but Carter followed through seven years later. On Dec. 15, 1979, his administration and Beijing established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic, ending a three-decade alienation and de-recognizing Nationalist Taiwan as the seat of the Chinese government. Reaction was swift.

Taiwan was stunned, its supporters in Congress enraged. A group of senators sued Carter—unsuccessfully—to reverse the move. In Carter's home state, the Coca-Cola Co. was more enthusiastic; within four days, it had announced it would begin sales in China. *AP*

PASSION
TOYOTA
XXXL
The Space.
0% interest for 2 years on 50% downpayment*
The Price.
It's VVT-i POWERED.
ECHO
Ride The Change

The Echo and the Echo Verso, 0% interest for 2 years.*

Try these on for size, without paying the price--unbelievable space, unprecedented versatility, incredible power, and funky aerodynamics. The Echo and the Echo Verso. Now, tailored to fit your budget to a tee.

- **0% interest for 2 years.***
- **Downpayment of as low as ₱124,800.***
- **Accessories and comprehensive insurance at no cost, plus cash rebates.** So, whatever among these suit you, the Toyota Dealer nearest you will gladly be at your service.

• 0% INTEREST SCHEME

Echo M/T=₱624,000.00

% DP	DP Amount	Plan 12	Plan 18	Plan 24
50%	312,000.00	26,000.00	17,333.00	13,000.00

Echo Verso M/T=₱719,000.00

% DP	DP Amount	Plan 12	Plan 18	Plan 24
50%	359,500.00	29,958.00	19,972.00	14,979.00

• LOW DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME

Echo M/T=₱624,000.00

% DP	DP Amount	Plan 12	Plan 18	Plan 24	Plan 36	Plan 48
20%	124,800.00	45,508.00	31,454.00	25,176.00	18,077.00	14,572.00
30%	187,200.00	39,819.00	27,522.00	22,029.00	15,817.00	12,750.00
40%	249,600.00	34,131.00	23,590.00	18,882.00	13,556.00	10,929.00

Echo Verso M/T=₱719,000.00

% DP	DP Amount	Plan 12	Plan 18	Plan 24	Plan 36	Plan 48
20%	143,800.00	52,436.00	36,243.00	29,008.00	20,829.00	16,790.00
30%	215,700.00	45,881.00	31,712.00	25,382.00	18,225.00	14,692.00
40%	287,600.00	39,327.00	27,182.00	21,756.00	15,622.00	12,593.00

*Subject to bank approval

METROBANK UNIONBANK Insular Savings Bank International Exchange Bank DBS BANK PR BANK PHILAM SAVINGS BANK

Promo runs from September 1 to September 30, 2001

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 805-3643 / 806-3870
TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1581 / (034) 444-1811 to 12
TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 433-6778
TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 / 364-1547 / 364-4071
TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 to 17
TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7627 to 28 / (043) 723-7638 to 39
TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., 325 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 810-2222 / 819-7481 to 86 / 844-7926 / 819-3317
TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC., Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 / (044) 463-8490
TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / (08822) 858-7770 to 71
TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161
TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 to 75 • Fax: (032) 345-8669
TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 / 952-0762
TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63
TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-4773 & 75 / (075) 522-6888
TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-2994
TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 119
TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10
TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 933-8631 to 34
TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20
TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 / 816-1624 / 816-1827 / 893-9478 / 816-1826
TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, 712-5001 to 06 / 712-6190 to 92
TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 24
TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriquez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-2814

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1273, Series of 2001

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonifat Apartelle,
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City.
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.webling.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/06/01

ROUNDUP

Nightclub women arrested

MARILAO, Bulacan—Police arrested 10 women believed engaged in prostitution during an entrapment operation in various nightclubs here. Supt. Melchor Reyes of the intelligence and investigation unit of the Bulacan police said they also arrested two suspected pimps in beerhouses here. He said at least three nightclubs here were used for the illegal sex trade. The women were charged with vagrancy and prostitution.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hostages rescued

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY—Police rescued a father and son who were held hostage by a man believed to be high on drugs on Aug. 30. Responding policemen shot and wounded suspect Eusebio Gaisan when he tried to stab Roden Pisan, 15. Police said Gaisan tried to rob the house of the Pisan family in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City. Armed with a knife, Gaisan forced Pisan and his father, Rosendo, to ride in a taxi with him. Sensing trouble, the taxi driver went instead to the police.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

P10-M fund for airport

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Sen. John Osmeña said he has appropriated P10 million for the construction of an airport in Cotabato province. Osmeña announced during the 87th founding anniversary of the province here last week that it was up to Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol to follow up the release of the fund. He said the amount was originally meant for the rehabilitation of the Bantayan Airport in "his native Cebu but since the DBM denied its release," he is redirecting it for the first airport of the province.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Digos mayor put on the spot

DIGOS CITY—Mayor Arsenio Latasa admitted that the series of killings of suspected drug pushers here have put his administration under public scrutiny, amid talk that he had a hand in them. Latasa said some people have called him to offer as much as P20,000 for every pusher killed, which indicates some residents' approval of the killings. But he said he has no knowledge of the identity of the vigilante group, if it indeed exists. Since June, more than 10 suspected pushers have been killed by unidentified men, who, residents suspect, are members of a vigilante group called Digos Death Squad.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cement industry under siege

STILL reeling from the closure of the National Steel Corp. (NSC) two years ago, residents of Iligan City are now apprehensive that their cement industry will die a slow death, too, if the dumping of cheap cement imports into the country continues. In a hearing of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano expressed fears that the two remaining cement plants in the city might be forced to close down like NSC, in the light of current problems being faced by local cement manufacturers. The NSC folded up following the unabated entry of cheap steel imports, primarily from Russia. With the closure of NSC, thousands of Iligan residents lost their jobs. "The issue here is the very survival of Iligan City," a committee statement quoted Quijano as saying. "This is why (the) government has to be very careful about how it manages policies (pertaining to the cement industry)."

6 skeletons recovered

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A private investigator recovered skeletons of six persons believed to have been killed by pirates in Coron, Palawan. Private detective Samuel de la Rosa claimed that he saw the skeletons buried about a foot deep on CYC Island Beach, an uninhabited island owned by Coron town. Three of the six were identified through personal belongings found in the burial site as Condrado Mangokol, Arnold Antos and Ronald Larriosa, all fishermen from Barangay Tumbod, Taytay, Palawan.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CHR probes police 'abuse'

DARAGA, Albay—The Commission on Human Rights said it was investigating the complaints of eight guest relations officers, including a pregnant teenager, who claimed that police used excessive force and trumped-up charges against them in a raid last week on a videoke bar here. The victims, two of whom were hospitalized for injuries, filed separate complaints with the CHR against members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group who raided the L&G videoke bar here on Aug. 24.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

COMELEC QUESTIONED

Solon defies unseat order

BY JANI ARNAIZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—Rep. Maria Victoria Locsin of Leyte's fourth district will not step down from her House seat despite an order of the Commission on Elections en banc that declared her proclamation void.

Mayor Carmelo Locsin said his wife will not yield her post to her lone rival, former Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr., because only the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) has jurisdiction on election-related cases filed against its members.

"The decision of (the) Comelec ordering Congresswoman Vicky Locsin to vacate (her seat) is not legal because only the House can unseat its members," the mayor told a local radio station.

He also urged their followers to stay calm because "in two weeks . . . the issue will be resolved and Vicky Locsin will still be your congresswoman."

Mayor Locsin said her decision to stay on was based on the opinion rendered by Leonardo Palicse, chief counsel of the House's legal affairs bureau.

In his five-page memorandum dated Aug. 31, Palicse said only the HRET can direct the removal of congressmen arising from election-related issues.

He cited Section 17, Article VI of the Constitution, which defines the functions and composition of the HRET.

This section provides that "the Senate and the House of Representatives shall each have an electoral tribunal, which shall be the sole judge of all contests relating to the election, returns and qualifications of their respective members."

But Ruben Capahi, one of Codilla's lawyers, described as "inaccurate" Palicse's memorandum.

"The question here is who is the winner in the fourth district (congressional race). And we know that it was Representative Eufrocino Codilla," he said.

The Comelec en banc earlier declared null and void the proclamation of Representative Locsin and ordered her to vacate her congressional seat.

The poll body instead directed the Provincial Board of Canvassers to reconvene and declare Codilla as the winning candidate for the fourth district's congressional race.

In a vote of 4-3, the Comelec en banc reversed a June 14 decision of the poll body's Second Division that disqualified Codilla.

The Second Division's ruling that was reversed also ordered the board of canvassers to proclaim the candidate, except Codilla, who got the highest number of votes in the congressional elections.

In a 108-page decision dated Aug. 29, the Comelec said the proclamation of Locsin violated election laws and jurisprudence.

The second division, in a June 14 ruling, disqualified Codilla for "indirect solicitation of votes" during the campaign period and ruled "stray and invalid" the votes that Codilla received during the May 14 elections. Codilla then was ahead by 17,000 votes.

The ruling of the second division stemmed from a petition for disqualification filed against Codilla by Josephine de la Cruz, a resident of Barangay Riverside, Kananga town.

But the Comelec en banc said De la Cruz's charges have not been substantiated.

Codilla, however, has yet to be proclaimed because lawyer Manuel Villegas, Leyte election supervisor, refused to act on the Comelec order.

He said the order to reconvene the PBC was not addressed to him but to the previous chair of the PBC, Federico Carolino, who is now election supervisor in Samar.

Villegas said he preferred to wait for a Comelec order that would be specifically addressed to him. ***With a report from Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

COA says Davao dome not overpriced

DAVAO CITY—The Commission on Audit (COA) said the P300 million budget earmarked for the construction of the Davao City Artica Sports Dome was "not excessive."

COA's announcement came after a five-man technical review team concluded that various expenses for the sports dome were allowable under COA rules.

Some expenses were about 6 percent higher than what COA would have spent on the project.

The technical audit report by the five-man team was submitted last Aug. 30.

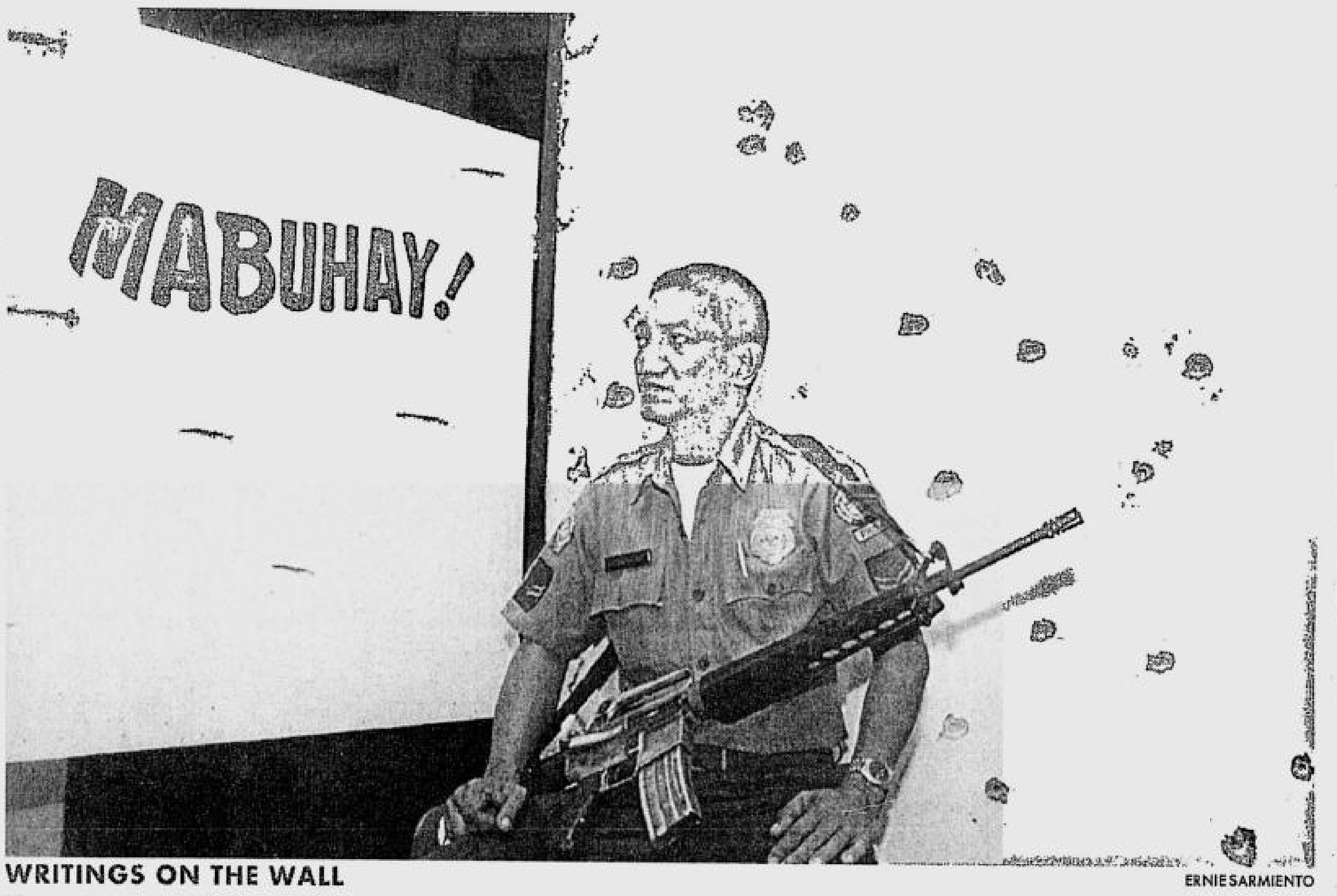
The scope of the technical review covered the original contract and all other subcontracts for the project.

Earlier, officials who were critical of former Mayor Benjamin de Guzman alleged that the construction of the Artica dome was overpriced by P57 million.

These allegations triggered the audit.

In its background information, the team said the original cost was P285,524,634.84, which is still within the allowable government estimate of P292,282,949.90.

Its findings said the contract passed various tests required for government projects. ***Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



WRITINGS ON THE WALL

ERNIE SARMIENTO

The communist rebellion in the provinces is as real as these bullet marks left on the wall of a police headquarters in Pagbilao, Quezon. The bullet marks and graffiti that now read only "long live" are all that were left of an attack on the station by communist guerrillas early this month.

Army says NPAs enforcing new tax scheme

LEGAZPI CITY—The New People's Army has adopted new taxation schemes, using the island-province of Masbate as its pilot area, and has already amassed millions of pesos to finance its rebellion in Bicol, including scholarships for some of its members, a military spokesperson here said.

Army Maj. Jose Broso, group commander of the AFP-Civil Relations Group for Bicol, said there are two taxation schemes the NPA has imposed on both supporters and nonsympathizers in Masbate.

Broso identified the two kinds of revolutionary tax as: Rebolusyunaryong Buwis sa Kaaway sa Uri (RBKU) and the Rebolusyunaryong Buwis sa Kaalyadong Kaaway sa Uri (RBKKU).

He said the RBKU has no fixed amount and is being asked from non-sympathizers of the NPA while the RBKKU is fixed and for sympathizers.

The military official added that reports gathered by the AFP said that the NPA in Masbate continued to gain strength in the past years as a result of their aggressive recruitment and also because of the lack of police personnel and the absence of military units in the province.

Broso said the rebels were able to implement large-scale revolutionary taxation on big businesses, politicians, local government officials, construction and shipping companies.

He said based on documents, the NPA in Masbate has 192 guerrillas equipped with 89 high-powered firearms and 19 handguns.

Broso said that while the rebels are getting rich with the new revolutionary taxation schemes, the implementation of infrastructure projects in the province was adversely affected.

He added that an irrigation project in Barangay Buracan, Dimasalang town was not completed when the contractor left the project site after he allegedly received a demand for taxation from the rebels.

"Local officials and public schoolteachers are not spared from revolutionary taxation," Broso said. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Poor prospects drive out mine firm

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya—A foreign mining firm that explored for gold and copper in an ore-rich village here has pulled out of the site, after test results failed to meet the expected commercial volume of mineral deposits in the area.

Canada-based Placer Dome Exploration Inc. (PDX), in a report to Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, said findings of mineral deposits within its 3,454-hectare exploration area in Barangay Runruno here "fell short of a Placer-size target."

The PDX report came out after almost a year of exploration at the site. Since May, it has reportedly started to pull out its personnel and equipment.

The exploration site is part of a bigger gold prospect area in Runruno, covering an area of about 12,394 hectares, which was laid open for exploration following the issuance of a permit to another firm, Greenwater Mining Corp. in 1996.

The two-year exploration permit for PDX was approved on July 12, 2000 by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles.

During its exploration, PDX reported it drilled 11 holes with a total length of 2,020 meters in the area. Only four of the holes came across "significant gold mineralization," the PDX report said.

The exploration report also blamed strong groundwater flow, estimated at 450 liters per minute, for the failure of mine engineers to extract core materials from the drilled holes.

The Runruno exploration area is within the Nueva Vizcaya forest reserve that supplies irrigation water to lowland ricefields in the province.

Exploration studies earlier revealed that the site contains an estimated 450,000-ounce gold resource that, according to the PDX report, "have remained under-explored or begging to be explored."

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov says Abu paid MILF to take hostage

ISABELA CITY—Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar has accused the Moro Islamic Liberation Front under a certain Commander Amir Mingkong of receiving payment from the Abu Sayyaf to keep American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Akbar said reports reaching him indicated that Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and Isnilon Hapilon turned to Mingkong, after Commander Hamsa, another MILF leader based in Barangay Gaile in Tipo-tipo, turned them down.

Akbar said Mingkong received P300,000 to secure the Burnham couple in Barangay Baiwas, Sumisip.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu admitted that Mingkong belongs to the rebel front and is the commander of the MILF's internal security force in Sumisip.

But he said the MILF would have to investigate to determine whether Akbar's allegation was true.

"We have to hear what Mingkong has to say. It is unfair if we just act without hearing him and without verifying the allegations," Kabalu said.

Akbar said another indication that the report could be true is that the MILF leadership in Basilan disowned Mingkong.

The transfer of the hostages, he said, came after the rebel leader entered into an agreement with the Abu Sayyaf on Aug. 22.

The MILF had repeatedly denounced the abductions perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf as un-Islamic and said people associated with the bandit group also deserved to be condemned.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

12 Indians nabbed for illegal entry

BY JOEY GABIETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Immigration agents arrested on Monday 12 Indian nationals for illegally staying in the Philippines.

"During their arrest, they failed to present any immigration documents like passports that will prove that they entered into the country legally," said Reynaldo Rostata, director for Bureau of Immigration and Deportation in Eastern Visayas (BID-8).

In the absence of these papers, he added, the foreigners were presumed to be illegal aliens.

Those arrested by the agents of the BID were identified as Resham, Balwant, Sukhmander, Jadrop, Harvinder, Yadwinder, Kulvir, and Kulwant, all surnamed Singh; Bhajan Rai; Amarjit Sekhon; and Jasmir and Paramjit Kaur. They were reportedly engaged in the money-lending business.

Rostata said Manila-based immigration agents led by immigration intelligence officer Lito Geronimo arrested the Indian nationals in separate raids conducted on their respective houses in the city.

It's a go; evacuees, too

REUTERS

FOR the 46,000 residents of Botolan, Zambales, today may well be the first day of the rest of their lives.

Today, the Botolans (see photos on this page and story on page A2) will keep out of harm's way as the waters of the crater lake of Mt. Pinatubo will be unleashed to lessen the danger of the lake overflowing uncontrollably due to heavy monsoon rains.

The figures are: 24 million cubic meters of water to be released out of the 210 million cubic meters of water in the 2.5-km wide lake; that's only 2 meters away for the water to reach the rim of the lake. The release of volumes of water will take about five hours.

Close to a hundred Aetas who, under extreme weather conditions, scaled the 2,840 feet Mt. Pinatubo to dig a canal 2 meters wide, 4 meters high and 75 meters long on the northwest bank of the crater lake. They are the heroic figures.

ERIK ARAZAS

REUTERS

REUTERS

ERIK ARAZAS

ERIK ARAZAS

Camacho: Hearings good for economy

By Clarissa S. Batino

TALK about taking the long-term view.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday the joint Senate hearings on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged links to organized crime should continue, to help the Macapagal administration arrive at a "win-win" solution.

"Personally, I think the hearings will help identify the weaknesses in our military and police. I believe it would lead to good results and help us strengthen 'good governance," the finance chief told reporters after a briefing on the country's economic performance.

Three Senate committees are looking into military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus' sensational charges that Lacson is involved in drug trafficking, money laundering and summary executions. Scoring the circus-like atmosphere surrounding the hearings as a unnecessary distraction, some senators have called for an end to the hearings. Others have said the avidly followed sessions have not unearthed any real evidence.

Also present at yesterday's briefing for investors were Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

The five members of the economic team made a strong sales pitch for the Philippines in front of 250 members of the business community. No big names from business attended the briefing, however, as the audience was mostly composed of analysts and economists.

No impact

When asked whether the hearings were affecting the economy, Canlas said there appears to have been no impact as the Philippine economy proved resilient in the first half of the year.

Buenaventura also noted that the Lacson controversy had not affected the peso, saying the local currency had stabilized because of strong economic fundamentals.

"I believe the government would be able to convert these challenges, including the ongoing investigation of Senator Lacson, into a win-win situation," Camacho said.

Boncodin said that of the P58 billion allotted in the budget next year to finance the promises made by President Macapagal during her first State of the Nation Address, P16 billion was earmarked for the police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In its presentation, the economic team pointed out that stable peace and order was an important prerequisite for sustainable economic growth.

"Ensuring peace-and-order, to begin with, rests on an ability to curb criminal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, drug trafficking," the team said.

Among the key government strategies for improving peace and order were modernizing the military and the police, pursuing peace agreements, mobilizing the citizens to help solve crimes, improving the administration of justice and promoting respect for human rights.

Police colonel denies Lacson claim

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, former Quezon provincial director, denied the claim yesterday of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that Col. Victor Corpus had asked him to testify against the senator.

"Colonel Corpus never approached me. (I have never seen Corpus in my whole life)," Alejandrino told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I don't know where Senator Lacson got his information."

Alejandrino said he was now in Davao as newly appointed chief of staff of the Police Regional Office 11.

He suggested that Lacson's men could have fed the senator wrong information.

Alejandrino, who was Quezon police chief at the time of the foiled attempt to smuggle 365 kilos of shabu into Barangay Bignay in Sariaya, Quezon, on Aug. 24, 2000, also suggested that Lacson might have just mixed up all the information fed him.

"I did try to get in touch with Colonel Corpus sometime in April to clear the matter regarding all the false information that was then being provided him by alleged syndicate insider Jonathan Perfiñan," Alejandrino said. "But I was not able to meet and talk with him. It was so hard to have an audience with him during that time."

He also assailed the testimony of Sgt. Juanito Pascual at yesterday's Senate hearing.

"Those pieces of information were all bullsh-t. They were all lies," he said, adding:

"If they were really the ones who effected the arrest of the Chinese smugglers, why is it that when they chanced upon the smugglers, they were already in the act of loading the shabu in the van? It's not they who made the arrest but the group of villagers led by engineer Romy Alcala, who owns the nearby resort.

"It was the police who were then working on the case, and not the soldiers. It was a police operation, first and foremost." But Maj. Gen Jose Lachica, former chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Luzon Command, insisted then that what actually transpired was part of a military "covert operation" in the village.

He said the five apprehending soldiers had been actually posted in the village to help gather all available information about the reported rampant smuggling activities along the shoreline of Tayabas Bay.

The day after the shabu bust, almost all national media entities carried the report on how the team of police, military and anti-drug agencies successfully foiled the attempt of the dreaded Hong Kong Triad to smuggle in P730 million worth of shabu.

But the next day, Fr. Raul Enriquez, Bignay parish priest, revealed that some residents were actually the ones who apprehended the drug traffickers with the help of the five soldiers.

Solcom has awarded the five—Pascual, S/Sgt. Ariel Banaag, Sgt. Mario Cabero, Cpl. Leonio Novelo and Pfc. Ruffel Mojares—a Bronze Cross medal for heroism.

SMILES all around but not at each other.

JESS YUSON

Accused finds accuser 'foxy, wily, beautiful'

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE ACCUSED finds his accuser "beautiful."

Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, may be a big thorn in Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop's side but he still has good things to say about the former agent-turned-accuser.

"She's good, she's foxy, she's wily and has a lot of connections. And she's also beautiful," Acop told the joint hearing of three Senate committees investigating the alleged drug links of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Ong's greatest selling point as far as the Philippine National Police was concerned was her supposed access to the Hong Kong triads, according to Acop.

"It's not easy to gain access to the triad. It's a well-knit criminal syndicate," Acop explained.

And it was Supt. John Campos, Ong's former lover, who convinced Acop and his other bosses in the PNP NarcGroup to employ Ong as an informant, Acop said.

He said Campos and Ong were "allegedly living together" when she was introduced to the narcotics group in February 1998. Campos was then head of the group's foreign liaison unit.

At the time, Campos described his girlfriend as "dependable," Acop recalled.

Ong has named Acop and Campos as two of several police officers who allegedly engaged in drug trafficking in the guise of drug enforcement.

Retired general advises Lacson: Go on leave

(From page 1)

of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (or Forces), also said the Senate ethics committee should initiate separate proceedings against Lacson in view of the allegations raised against him by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and various witnesses.

It is the ethics committee that is authorized to recommend to the Senate sitting in plenary session sanctions against erring members. The penalties range from reprimand to expulsion.

"The Senate should wake up. (It) should tell Lacson to go on leave until the inquiry is over," Abat said.

He said a leave of absence would ensure that Lacson—who once concurrently headed the Philippine National Police and the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force—would not influence the hearings being conducted by the Senate public order, blue ribbon and national defense committees.

Abat's Forces was among the civil-society, cause-oriented and religious groups that launched on Tuesday a movement calling for Lacson's expulsion or resignation from the Senate.

As chair of Forces, he was the first to openly call for the withdrawal of military support from then President Joseph Estrada.

Abat also criticized Lacson's appearance at yesterday's hearing.

"He is not supposed to meddle in the investigation, and yet he was even asking the witnesses questions," Abat said.

What was worse, according to Abat, was that Lacson was defending himself without having been put under oath.

"It's unfair for the witnesses who are under oath," Abat said.

Protest action

Leaders of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) yesterday met with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin at the Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City to seek his guidance regarding a protest action planned for next week against Lacson and the "making of a narco-state."

Copa spokesperson Pastor Saycon said the cardinal promised to issue pastoral advice on the evils of drug trafficking and a state controlled by drug dealers.

"After the meeting, he immediately consulted with the presbyteral council of the Archdiocese of Manila to discuss the contents of the pastoral advice," Saycon told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Saycon said Copa leaders also urged the Cardinal not to worry about the presence of ex-military officers like former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte at Tuesday's "narco-politics summit," during which the anti-Lacson movement was launched.

"We told him that it was just a gathering of groups with common interests, that there was nothing to worry about," Saycon said.

Sin is said to have been alarmed by the presence at the summit of ex-military officers because of rumors that a coup d'etat was imminent with civil society and military forces coming together.

Saycon said Copa was in the process of organizing the protest action, which would be held on Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

He said multisectoral organizations and those from the militant Left would take part in the protest action.

'Underdog'

But Victor Briz, president of the Bukluran ng Mangagawang Pilipino (BMP), pointed out that the anti-Lacson movement was making the senator "an underdog and martyr."

Briz said that while the BMP believed in the veracity of the allegations against Lacson, calling for his expulsion or resignation was premature.

He noted with suspicion the presence at the movement's launch of retired generals identified with the Ramos administration.

He said that while most of the movement's convenors were among the civil society leaders who led the Estrada Resign Movement, retired military men, and not civilian activists, were dominant.

"These are the same generals identified with Fidel Ramos who coddled and defended Lacson when he was still honing his killer instincts and skills at the defunct MISG (Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group)," Briz said, adding:

"These same ex-generals lack the moral ground to lead the denunciation of Lacson for corruption when their very hands are tainted by scams like (that involving) the RSBS (Retirement and Separation Benefits System of the Armed Forces)."

Briz said the BMP and its allied group Sanlakas were present at the narco-politics summit "simply to observe," and were not actually privy to the launching of the anti-Lacson movement.

He said the movement could succeed only "if it is led by civilians whose motives and characters are unsullied."

"The confrontation that happened (yesterday) at the Senate hearing should be repeated if only to educate the public on the breadth and depth of the corruption of both Lacson and his enemies, and the past and present leadership of the police, the administration and opposition."

'Not as extreme'

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said his group would join the anti-Lacson movement only after Corpus had substantiated his accusations against the senator.

Ocampo said the situation was "not yet as extreme" as that during Estrada's impeachment trial, when members of civil society were "all morally convinced" of the then President's culpability.

"While we maintain that Lacson needs to do more explaining regarding his record during martial law, his stint as PNP chief, and the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case, we still challenge his accuser to substantiate the charges," Ocampo said.

The party-list congressman said there were many points in Corpus' allegations that needed to be "corroborated."

He thus denied Lacson's earlier claim that Bayan Muna was one of the groups behind Corpus.

Also at the House, Lacson's party mates said the new movement was only fueling public distrust toward the institutional processes for addressing complaints against elected officials.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the public should let the Senate employ its inherent investigative functions instead of deciding Lacson's guilt or innocence "in the streets."

Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino maintained that "nothing has been proven yet, so let's not prejudge the case."

Political issue

In Cebu, the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) has yet to make a categorical stand on moves to oust Lacson.

"This is a political issue, and we try to avoid these things as much as possible," said FCCC president Filomeno Lim.

Lim said that while the Chinese community had been branded as Lacson's supporter, it wanted to "stay neutral" this time.

"We will be with the truth. However, we are not joining any campaign whether for or against Senator Lacson," he said.

But Fr. Carmelo Diola of the multisectoral Project Hagit Bisdak called on the public to remain vigilant.

He said the group, which actively participated in anti-Estrada mass actions, planned to meet this week in order to come up with a position on the movement to oust Lacson.

"These are dangerous times in the sense that you're dealing with nascent narco-politics. You're dealing with people (with no conscience) but with a lot of money," Diola said. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Volt Contreras in Manila; Malou Guanzon-Apalisok, PDI Visayas Burea***

JESS YUSON

SURPRISE witnesses, S/Sgt. Juanito Pascual, (at right), and Sr. Insp. Florentino Bugallon and Rebecca Agana provide more damaging testimony to the accused.

Yes, Lacson should resign, say 8 of 10 in Inq7 survey

By INQ7.NET

MORE than 8 of 10 respondents in an online poll said Sen. Panfilo Lacson should resign from the Senate to ensure an impartial investigation of the allegations raised against him.

A total of 1,619 respondents, or 88 percent, answered "yes" to the question of whether Lacson, who is accused of involvement in drug trafficking and other criminal activities, should resign his Senate post.

Some 222 respondents, or 12 percent, said Lacson should not resign. Only 7 respondents said they did not know how Lacson should respond.

The poll was conducted by INQ7.net, the news website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network.

A total of 1,848 participated in the online poll, which was posted in the afternoon of Sept. 4 shortly after various groups launched a movement seeking Lacson's resignation or expulsion from the Senate.

The online poll is not scientific and reflects the opinion of only those Internet users who chose to participate.

Readers' feedback on the Senate inquiry on Lacson's alleged criminal activities can be viewed at www.inq7.net.

Gov't, civil society ask SC to reopen Kuratong . . .

(From page A1)

In a move reminiscent of the filing of impeachment charges against then President Joseph Estrada, Marcelo was joined in his petition by leaders of civil society, including Nathanael Santiago of Bayan Muna, Teodoro Casiño of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Maan Hontiveros and Carolina Araullo of Plunder Watch, members of Code Red, and private prosecutors Arno Sanidad and Mary Anne Yuviengco.

Sanidad, a human rights lawyer, said the Kuratong Baleleng case "is the case that will send him (Lacson) to jail." He added: "The ongoing investigation of the Senate on Lacson is mere icing on the cake."

Justice secretary Hernando Perez and Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza also joined in the filing of the "petition for review by certiorari with prayer for the issuance of a temporary restraining order."

Perez said the concerted action by the government and civil society was in line with their "fight for truth and justice."

"We believe that we can't render justice to the victims, two of whom were minors, without trying the cases in appropriate courts," Perez said. The cases, first filed in 1995, charged Lacson and 36 others with the summary execution of 11 suspected gang members.

Sanidad claimed that prosecutors will present six new witnesses to prove that Lacson masterminded the summary killings.

He expressed confidence that the CA ruling would be reversed by the high court because the Senate itself had concluded that "killings were done in cold blood."

He said the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights chaired by then Sen. Raul Roco even recommended in its resolution of June 10, 1995 the filing of criminal charges against Lacson and other police officers implicated in the alleged rubout. The resolution was attached to the petition for review, Sanidad said.

Subsequent expulsion

"The new evidence points to Lacson as the brains behind this ghastly mass execution of suspected Kuratong Baleleng members and may be enough to warrant his conviction and subsequent expulsion from the Senate," Casiño said.

Araullo said Lacson could not just brush aside the new evidence as easily as he did the allegations made by Col. Victor Corpus, Angelo "Ador" Mawanay and Mary "Rosebud" Ong. "The available evidence against Lacson, as far as we know, may be enough to merit him a conviction and a jail sentence," she said.

Araullo said the CA ruling was "anomalous and victimizes Kuratong Baleleng victims twice over by denying them judicial proceedings against the alleged perpetrators and masterminds of the rubout."

In the 89-page petition, Marcelo cited three grounds in asking for a reversal of the CA ruling.

· Marcelo said Lacson himself did not invoke the two-year prescriptive period for reviving the cases (Section 8, Rule 117, of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedures).

· Marcelo said Lacson was guilty of forum shopping since he filed the same petitions before the regional trial court and the Court of Appeals.

· Marcelo said the CA ruling rested solely on the strength of procedural rules or technicalities. "But substantive criminal laws cannot be overturned by a procedural rule and . . . the CA misapplied said rule, which was intended merely to provide relief to overseas workers seeking clearances required for their work permits," he said. The rule was never intended to prevent the refiling of the cases when the evidence so warrants.

Marcelo added that the rule does not cover cases "where no arrest order has been issued, and hence no personal jurisdiction or threat to liberty on the accused has arisen, and in cases where no arraignment or plea has yet been had."

Substantive law

He added: "Hence, Section 8, Rule 117, is an important procedural rule that resolves certain procedural, practical and prescription-related issues but it does not alter in any way substantive criminal laws. Rule 117 was never meant to bar any further prosecution or refiling of cases."

On Aug. 24, the CA's Special Third Division ruled that the prescription had lapsed and thus the 11 Kuratong Baleleng cases could not be reopened anymore. The decision, penned by Associate Justice Eriberto Rosario Jr. and concurred in by Associate Justices Conrado Vasquez Jr., Hilarion Aquino and Josefina Guevarra-Salonga, also barred the government from further prosecuting Lacson in any matter relating to the alleged rubout on May 18, 1995.

Associate Justice Buenaventura J. Guerrero, the division chair, dissented. Guerrero said Lacson could not invoke double jeopardy once the government revives the cases against him since, he said, the senator "was never arraigned validly before the Sandiganbayan and was never arraigned at all before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 81, of Quezon City."

In his prefatory statement, Marcelo said the sorry legal history of the Kuratong Baleleng cases started when Judge Wenceslao Agnir Jr. (now an Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals) dismissed the criminal cases against Lacson and his co-accused.

"But one cannot imagine how Judge Agnir could think that the ghosts of the May 18, 1995 massacre victims can be laid to rest when justice was not done, when there was no due retribution, and the victims' most fundamental right—the right to life—has not been vindicated," Marcelo said.

It was Ombudsman Aniano Desierto who charged Lacson as a principal in the 11 cases filed before the Sandiganbayan.

The Sandiganbayan, however, upon a motion from Lacson, ordered the Ombudsman to reinvestigate the cases. In a resolution dated Mar. 1, 1996, the Ombudsman downgraded the charges and impleaded Lacson as a mere accessory.

In March 1996, Lacson questioned the jurisdiction of the anti-graft court before the high tribunal. On January 20, 1999, the Supreme Court directed the transfer of the cases to the QC RTC.

However, before the court could try the cases, the private complainants who were relatives of the deceased executed affidavits of desistance. In effect, they backed out of the case.

Even the principal witness, SPO2 Eduardo Delos Reyes, retracted his affidavit and declared that the alleged summary executions were actually a legitimate police encounter with known criminals—a shootout, not a rubout.

The court was then forced to dismiss the cases "provisionally."

The DOJ, upon orders from Perez, decided to reopen the cases early this year when two witnesses surfaced and claimed to have knowledge of the alleged summary executions.

Lacson filed a petition with Branch 40 of the Manila RTC on June 5, 2001 seeking a stop to the preliminary investigation.

But when the court denied the petition for TRO against the preliminary investigation then being conducted by the DOJ, Lacson filed with the CA a petition seeking to nullify the order of the Manila court and the DOJ's resolution of the cases.

While the petition was pending with the CA, the DOJ, on March 6, 2001, filed new cases against him and several others. He was accused as the principal again.

On June 26, 2001, the CA granted Lacson's petition and barred Quezon City Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao from issuing any warrant of arrest or conducting any proceedings in the 11 criminal cases.

Court picket

Members of Plunder Watch and Bayan picketed the courthouse to condemn the CA ruling and demand the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case against Lacson.

"Hopefully, justice would catch up with this criminal and certified human rights violator," Casiño said.

He expressed confidence that if the case were given due course "and without tainted money to influence the judiciary," Lacson would be found guilty of what Casiño described as the "orchestrated case of slaughter and the cover up that he and his minions did."

"The hands of this self-proclaimed Mr. Clean is all full of blood. Not even his title as senator or millions in tainted money will be enough to wash it off that easily," said Casiño. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Ping hearing . . .

(From page A1)

Senate inquiry into alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson is drawing more audience here than the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"We listen and watch with much interest because there's a grain of truth in the exposé . . . we did not know that it has gone that far," said Florencio Matugas, a former radio operator.

"It is very explosive, full of suspense. Imagine kidnap victims getting killed after paying ransom . . . and there's the paper trail, *shabu* distribution trail, etc. Really interesting," said Teresita Magsayo, a private school teacher.

Matugas and Magsayo were referring to the ongoing Senate investigation of allegations raised by Col. Victor Corpus, military intelligence chief, against Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police, and his former deputies.

Corpus has accused Lacson, who then headed the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), and his aides of involvement in money laundering, drug trafficking, kidnapping, rubout of criminal suspects and other crimes.

Many city residents consider the Senate inquiry, which has been aired over television and radio stations, more popular and entertaining than the Estrada impeachment trial.

A random check of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. showed that commercial banks and private offices have installed TV and radio sets so that their employees can watch the Senate inquiry.

The viewers compared the show's popularity to that of the TV soap opera, "Pangako sa Iyo."

Drivers of private and public vehicles have also tuned in to radio stations dxMS and dzRH.

The much-awaited face-off between the "accused and the accuser" made the hearing very interesting to many people, reminiscent of the televised impeachment trial of Estrada.

Even with just orders of soft drinks, customers flock to restaurants in the city's commercial districts to watch the Senate proceedings on TV.

"Here's Lacson, and then here's Corpus . . . the accused appears to be tense while the accuser is relaxed as he was in previous hearings," businessman Alfredo Cabrera would tell some of his customers.

In some government offices, employees also watch the hearing with much enthusiasm. Office personnel of the city police keep abreast with developments by viewing the ANC Channel.

Student fare

Students of the Notre Dame University and other colleges say they also watch the Senate inquiry, not because their teachers told them so but because they find it very informative and educational.

"We watched with awe how witness Mary Ong, aka Rosebud, could have gathered all the very detailed pieces of evidence as if she had prepared for the inquiry several years back when she was still with the group," Cecile Garcia, a college student, said.

Ong, a former civilian agent of the PNP, is among the key witnesses being presented by Corpus to boost his charges against Lacson and a developing "narco-state" in the country.

"It's good that there are people who are out to prevent this country from becoming a narco-politico government," Garcia said.

Even market vendors have their ears glued to radio stations, especially when Corpus challenged Lacson "to deny under oath that you are not guilty of money laundering."

Viewers commented that Corpus seemed to be hanging on to his life when he refused to reveal the contents of an Isafp operational report on money laundering which Lacson asked the Army colonel to forward to him.

Getting carried

"Corpus won't give it . . . like it's all his life. Look at Corpus, he's clinging to the red folder," Edward Guelos, a student of the Cotabato City State Polytechnic College, said in Filipino as he gestured at the TV set.

"Why would Corpus give that to Lacson when Lacson is the one being investigated. '*Pag binigay yan ni Corpus, parang kumuha siya ng bato at pinukpok sa kanyang ulo* (If Corpus yields, it's like getting a rock and hitting his head with it)," said Gerald Sta. Cruz, an insurance agent.

Some viewers said Ong was a good witness, but she could not draw their interest because of her very low voice.

Many Cotabateños and Maguindanaons are interested in Corpus' crusade, noting that he was once a battalion commander who had served here several years ago.

Soldiers of the Army's 6th Infantry Division were also watching TV and listening to the radio at their headquarters and offices because Corpus was one of them and was once their commander.

Lacson: Ong not credible to US officials

(From page A1)

United States to the US customs officials were full of inconsistencies, half truths and half lies.

"Many of the details that she mentioned during her debriefing were never confirmed and validated by US customs officials.

"In fact she was telling customs agents in San Francisco details of drug-trafficking information in the US, which were deliberately fed to her by US customs internal affairs people in Hong Kong, unfortunately she fell for this simple debriefing technique by the US customs authorities."

According to Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), US officials judged her to be " a witness without credibility."

"She presented the same information as if it was her own . . . she failed miserably," he said, explaining that it is standard procedure for agents to feed false information to witnesses to test if they will repeat it as fact in subsequent briefings.

But Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp), said the report in Lacson's possession was different from an "original document" marked "Secret" and submitted by Chan, who was also with Isafp at the time of the investigation.

Several references to Ong contained in the document Lacson has—including the paragraph on the assessment of her credibility—are missing in a copy of Chan's report dated June 28, obtained with Chan's permission from team member Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza Jr. of the PNP Intelligence Group.

The outline formats of the documents are also different, as are a set of recommendations at the end of each report.

Chan surprised

In a phone interview from India, Chan, who is now the Philippine military attaché to that country, expressed surprise at the revelations made by Lacson in the Senate yesterday.

"What report? Let Lacson produce what he is referring to as my report. My report has been submitted to Colonel Corpus. Why does he have a copy of my report?" Chan told the INQUIRER.

He refused to comment further on Lacson's statements until he sees the report in question.

Corpus, for his part, refused to give Lacson a copy of his version of the report, expressing concern that ongoing investigations of the senator's alleged money-laundering activities would be jeopardized.

But Mendoza vehemently denied Lacson's claim, saying US customs agents never told the team that Ong was "not a credible witness."

'I never read that'

"I never read that part in Colonel Chan's report. Because the US Customs Service Agents did not tell us that," Mendoza said.

"The US Customs agents, particularly Senior Special Agent Jerald Kawai simply said the US Customs Service will continue its investigation and they would further evaluate whether or not they would still need Ong as a witness in case they found evidence to warrant the filing of a criminal case against Lacson," Mendoza claimed.

"Their investigation is ongoing. They said they may or may not need a witness from the Philippines," he added.

Kawai, according to Mendoza, told the team that the US Customs Service would inform them of developments in its probe but suggested that the Philippines also invoke the RP-Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to commence government-to-government cooperation in connection with the case.

'Strong case'?

The team met with US Customs Service officials in Hong Kong, who reviewed the documentary as well as testimonial evidence provided by the AFP and PNP before they recommended that the Filipino team proceed to the United States to pursue the case, Chan said.

Mendoza said the fact that the American agents based in Hong Kong made the recommendation indicated that the team had a strong case to begin with.

Chan said that Douglas Creer, a senior special agent of US Customs Service's internal affairs office, recommended that the team proceed to San Francisco for further investigation and to file a criminal suit rather than a civil one against Lacson. The team left Hong Kong for California on June 5.

The mission in the US was terminated on July 3 but the Isafp continued the confirmation of other bank accounts through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, he said.

The team was composed of Chan, Mendoza, Ong, Filipino-American Blanquita Pelaez, Egdon Liscano of the PNP Intelligence Group, and lawyer Stephen Jarumay.

'Big fight'

Asked by Lacson whether he still finds Ong a credible witness in view of the supposed Chan report, Corpus skirted the question, claiming that Lacson was reading from an "unofficial document."

But in an interview with the INQUIRER, Corpus expressed continuing confidence in Ong's credibility.

He said it was Chan's report that he questioned, because Ong and Chan purportedly had a bitter fight while they were in the United States on the mission.

"I did not release (the report) because I know that report was biased because Chan wrote it after a big fight with Ong," he said.

He said he did "not give credence to the report" but opted to keep it in a vault. He was surprised to find that someone had leaked it.

According to him, the report was clearly intended to "destroy Ong, that's why I did not give the report or submit it to higher authorities."

When he confronted Chan, the latter reportedly admitted having had a falling out with Ong.

JESS YUSON

THE ACCUSED and their accuser: Corpus walks by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Senior Supt. Francisco Villaroman and Senior Supt. John Campos.

3 new witnesses tag Lacson, Razon, Wong

(From page A1)

whether Pascual reported to his superiors what Tan said.

Pascual admitted that he did not because he was afraid of Lacson, then head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

- **Senior Insp. Florentino Bagallon,** veteran investigator of the Manila police and chief of Manila City Hall's anti-crime and inspection office under then Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Said Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, former head of the Western Police District, interceded for suspected drug lord Kim Wong when he and his men raided the Top Ten Seafood Restaurant and Narcissus Club in Manila in November 1997.

Said the raiders found "sachets of white crystalline powder" which he suspected as *shabu* weighing one kilo. Said Wong called someone on two cell phones and asked for "Ping." On a third cell phone, Wong spoke with someone, and then handed it to Bagallon.

Voice on the line identified himself as Colonel Razon and said "Bagy" should release Wong as he was not an "enemy" (*kalaban*) but was "on our side" (*kakampi*).

In Cebu City, Razon denied intervening in any raid. "I would not risk my career as a police officer, my position as a district director, to influence an operative from City Hall, who was the man of the mayor. Will I be stupid enough to do that?" he said.

Lacson said he only got to know Wong in "1999 or 2000."

- **Rebecca Agana,** who was arrested in September 1998 and detained by the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group in Camp Crame.

Confirmed Mary "Rosebud" Ong's earlier testimony that PNP officers were using drug offenders detained in Camp Crame as drug couriers.

Said she sold drugs to police officers shortly after a fellow detainee, Phoebe Astudillo, befriended her.

Said it was through Astudillo and a Maj. Andy Suan that she ended up selling drugs for police officers.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, said the three new witnesses would no longer be called to the next hearing scheduled after the Senate break on Sept. 7-23.

Said Razon, now chief of the PNP regional command in Region 7 Central Visayas, would be invited to present his side. *Christine Avendaño and Connie Fernandez*

Mary Ong a pathological liar, says Acop

(From page A1)

that we are the drug lords in the Philippines," Acop testified.

He also went into a detailed explanation on the drug pipelines from Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China to the Philippines, adding that the Philippines was used as a transshipment point to other countries such as Australia and Japan.

His account portrayed a sophisticated network peopled by big bosses and "mules" of the infamous Hong Kong triads, as well as drug dealers from the Japanese Yakuza.

Gambling network

He accused Ong of being involved in "multi-million credit card fraud" and of "facing fraud cases filed by Equitable Citibank, Diners Club International and American Express Card."

He said Ong also operates and controls a gambling network in Chinatown, using the address 829 Benavidez Street in Binondo as her base.

"He said she was using her role as an "informant" to escape paying for drug shipments that she had allegedly handled. He claimed that she would tip off agents about drug shipments so she could run away with the payments while her partners would be arrested.

"Mary Ong's motives for her alleged expose cut like a double-bladed knife. On one side, in the spirit of self-preservation, she conjured an intricate story of police conspiracy in her crime group's kidnapping activities to avoid being targeted by rival Chinese triad hit men," he said.

"The other side enables her to earn money from certain political corners by launching smear campaign against certain police personalities," he claimed.

Links

Acop said Ong was arrested for drug trafficking in September 1992. She was allegedly caught trafficking 30 kilos of *shabu* via "air parcel."

The case was allegedly dismissed after the policeman-witness and his lawyer were killed in an operation allegedly masterminded by Ong and Lacson's longtime professional nemesis Col. Reynaldo Berroya.

Acop also said that Ong was associated with suspected drug lord Alfredo Tiongco and that her well-known drug distributors allegedly included Zamboanga City-based Necita "Chit" Salahuddin and Talib Mangona, an alleged big-time Muslim *shabu* supplier operating in Borneo and Sabah.

Acop also linked Ong to suspected Cebu drug lord Alfred Lim.

Contradiction

For lack of time, the senators failed to grill Acop extensively.

But questioned briefly by Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the public order and illegal drugs panel heading the hearings, Acop caught himself giving contradictory statements.

Asked by Barbers to confirm Ong's claim that Acop issued a P2-million check as "show money" for a drug purchase, Acop replied: "It is foolish for a narcotics director to issue a personal check to the triad."

He said that the check involved a "personal transaction" between him and Ong. He said it was issued in October 1998 because they owed her "some prize money."

Upon the recommendation of NarcGroup officer John Campos, Ong's former handler and purported lover, Acop said he issued the check to help Ong pay off a mortgage and debts from illegal gambling.

The money, he said, was charged to the P7.5-million countryside development fund of Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who agreed to partly foot the bill for Oplan Athena, an anti-narcotics operation that, according to Ong, was used by police agents as a front for drug trading.

But Barbers, a former interior secretary, pointed out that by the time the check was issued, Acop was no longer the head of Narcom.

"I'm puzzled, during that time, you were no longer Narcom chief, yet you were still in control of Sotto's CDF?" Barbers asked.

Startled, Acop paused, then said that he gave the money as a "carry-over" of his command of the Athena project.

Ping produces bank letter to back claim

(From page A1)

Lacson noted that the report prepared by Col. Mario Chan, who led the team that investigated Lacson's alleged accounts in the United States and Hong Kong, did not show his reported 18 dollar accounts.

Lacson then questioned Corpus about the source of the information on the accounts.

"If I divulge how we got the account number and who got them, our lives would be endangered as we look for your bank accounts," replied Corpus.

Corpus said he had to release the information to the media in the "interest of national security."

Lacson noted that Chan's report recommended that the PNP pay the P30 million it owed Ms Pelaez in a handcuff deal. Chan said that the Office of the President be reimbursed P9 million, which was advanced to Pelaez before the "mission" started.

But Lacson said the payment to Pelaez constituted graft as the handcuff deal was found to be a scam.

"I move that we include in the committee's recommendation the investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman of this act," he said.

The short but tense verbal tussle between Lacson and Corpus happened without any of them displaying signs of irritation except in one occasion. Lacson corrected Corpus for saying that he had "bank accounts" abroad. Lacson batted in, saying that what Curpos should say is "alleged bank accounts."

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the public order committee, ended the session at 3:30 p.m. after reading a letter from the Department of Justice asking that the hearings resume after the two-week break of the Senate.

The DOJ said it was expecting documents from the United States in connection with Lacson's bank accounts.

How Citibank helped Mexican crook hide $100M

(From page A1)

began investigating Citibank's handling of Salinas' money in an effort to determine whether the bank violated any laws.

Salinas was convicted in 1999 for murder.

Drug cartels

In October 1998, Swiss authorities seized $114 million of his assets, accusing him of making money by offering protection to drug cartels. But the Swiss have deferred to Mexico's prosecution of Salinas, according to Time.

The GAO said Citibank did not try to learn the source of the wealth of Salinas—then a $190,000-a-year Mexican civil servant. One of its private bankers even showed him how to create a complex system of dummy corporations and international wire transfers that cloaked his identity as owner of the accounts.

The GAO added that Citibank's actions in the Salinas affair were "inconsistent" with the bank's stated policies on knowing its customers and the source of their money.

Citibank officials declined to answer specific questions about the GAO report, but said it contained "errors" and ignored the bank's efforts to combat money laundering.

In some ways, the Salinas account at Citibank looked like a conventional private-banking relationship.

His private banker there, Amy Elliott, helped him purchase real estate and managed his investments. But the way Salinas' funds were moved from country to country would strike the average bank customer as extraordinary—though Citibankers said it was, in its essence, common among private bank clients.

Elliott's system, according to the GAO report, started with Salinas' wife Patricia Paulina, who hand carried cashier's checks from at least five Mexican banks to Citibank Mexico City and, using an alias known to Elliott, wired that money to Citibank New York.

Anonymous concentration account

By design, the Salinases didn't have an account with Citibank Mexico City, and there was nothing to link their name to the funds.

Once in New York, the funds were dumped into an anonymous Citibank "concentration" account where, again, no documents linked Salinas to the money.

Then came an even thicker shield for Salinas' identity. With Elliott's help, Salinas set up a shell company, called Trocca, in the Cayman Islands.

Trocca was a fascinating little entity. Its "board" consisted of three other shell companies—Madeline Investment SA, Donat Investment SA and Hitchcock Investment SA.

Trocca's executive officer and largest shareholder was yet another shell company, Tyler Ltd., formed by Cititrust (Cayman).

All are protected from scrutiny by the Cayman's strict financial-secrecy laws.

Trocca, in turn, held investment accounts at Citibank in Zurich and London that were managed by a Citibank affiliate in Zurich called Confidas. These accounts held stocks and bonds.

It was through this system that private banker Elliott moved some $100 million for a man she barely knew.

$1.1 million in fees

For its services to Salinas, Citibank earned about $1.1 million in fees, according to a Citibank representative.

The GAO report said Citibank maintained that Salinas' wealth had come partly from the sale of a construction company. But the bank knew no details about the construction firm, including its name, which had purchased it, or the amount of money generated by the sale, the GAO said.

Most analysts think it is unlikely that the bank will be prosecuted. In order to make a money-laundering charge stick, prosecutors generally must prove both that the bank's client was a criminal and that the bank knew he was a criminal when it provided services. It has been difficult in the past to hold banks accountable for what they did not ask. Just as strong a reason not to prosecute the bank may be that no one wants to see a major American institution lose its banking license—which is one of the possible penalties for money laundering.

SALINAS

MONEY TRAIL

1. Mexico City. Salinas' wife, using an alias, hand carries cashier's checks from five Mexican banks to Citibank Mexico City, which then sends that money by wire to . . .
2. New York City. Here the funds are dumped into an anonymous "concentration" account, and from there are wired into accounts of a shell company called Trocca, established in the. . .
3. Cayman Island. Here, protected by strict secrecy laws, are the only documents connecting Salinas to Trocca, which keeps its investments in . . .
4. London and Zurich's Citibank's "Confidas" affiliate in Zurich invests Trocca's money in stocks and bonds. It too is shrouded in Swiss secrecy laws.

Prayer power

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TWO years ago, I was witness to the worst beating the country ever suffered in the Southeast Asian Games. Brunei was the scene of disaster, where I covered the country's sixth stint in the biennial meet. We won only 20 gold medals then for an all-time low of 8 percent from the total 234 gold medals staked—good for fifth overall. We also finished fifth in 1989, the year we won 26 of the 303 gold medals up for grabs that year.

And then came the Miracle of '91 in Manila.

Propped up by a government hungry for recognition worldwide, the Philippines went all out in the 1991 SEA Games and finished second overall, just one gold medal behind overall champion Indonesia. It recalled the country's super performance in the 1981 SEA Games in Manila, when Lydia de Vega crowned herself sprints queen. Suddenly, a sports renaissance had been predicted.

Not quite.

In the next SEA Games in Singapore in 1993, we dropped to third. We placed third again in 1995 in Chiangmai, Thailand, before skidding to fourth overall in Jakarta in 1997. And then back to fifth in the 1999 Brunei Games.

Are we going to improve in Kuala Lumpur? Like jumping to fourth overall, or third overall maybe?

I can't tell.

But judging by what our coaches, trainers and even athletes, the projection is, we will win at least 80 gold medals in Kuala Lumpur. If that happens, that output will only be the second most gold medals hauled after the 91 in '91 in Manila.

But officials disagreed with that projection and said we might win "only about 40 gold medals."

I do not have an explanation for that, except that, maybe, they are downgrading our chances so that if we did not hit the target, they'd be freed from blame. Better be safe than sorry.

For the record, we won 26 gold medals in 1989, 57 in 1993, 33 in 1995 and 43 in 1997.

Like you, I also want our country to shine in Kuala Lumpur. The SEAG is but a minor league when ranged against the Asian Games. Our inability to consistently score well in the regional meet reflects the sad state of affairs in Philippine sports. Thus, even before we start to dream of making it big in the Asiad, or even in the Olympics, we must first think of scoring big strides on the regional front.

Look, we are entered in 29 fields out of 32 disciplines in Kuala Lumpur compared to only 19 sports in 1999 in Brunei. The Philippine Sports Commission spent almost P195 million preparing our athletes for Kuala Lumpur. Another P30 million was pitched in by Pagcor.

As I keep saying here, our athletes always go to battle well-prepared. Alas, their opponents, too. So that in the end, only the best of the best will prevail.

Here's a prayer that our warriors will do well in Kuala Lumpur. For, never have I underestimated the power of prayer.

From Pangasinan, Milo goes to CdO

AFTER a successful launch in Pangasinan, the 13th Milo Little Olympics gears up for a second round of action in Cagayan de Oro tomorrow.

Elementary and high school students in the region will participate in 10 interschool sports competitions, including badminton, gymnastics, lawn tennis, chess, table tennis, taekwondo, athletics, swimming, football and volleyball.

The Milo Little Olympics was first launched in Metro Manila in 1988 in line with Milo's identity as the "Olympic Energy Drink." The program is consistent with the long-term commitment of Milo to promote sports and youth development.

Today, the Milo Little Olympics program provides a venue for sports development among students. It continues to discover and develop young athletes for future national and international sports competitions.

The second leg tomorrow is set at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex, Cagayan de Oro City. Competitions will be staged on Sept. 8, 9, 15 and 16. Then the third round of the program will move to Cebu City on Sept. 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30. This year's Milo Little Olympics will culminate in Metro Manila on Oct. 6, 7, 13 and 14.

Some 20,000 students from 500 schools in Pangasinan, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Metro Manila are expected to join the 13th Milo Little Olympics.

At stake are medals for individual and team event winners, trophies and Milo sports equipment for winning schools, plaques and educational cash assistance for "Most Outstanding Athlete" awardees. Other awards include the "Cheering Competition" and "Biggest School Delegation."

The Milo Little Olympics program is supported by the Department of Culture and Sports, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Woods hopes for second straight Montreal victory

MONTREAL—One win does not signify the start of a streak, unless the player in question is Tiger Woods.

Of Woods' 22 PGA Tour wins since the start of the 1999 season, nine have been followed by another victory.

Woods has an opportunity to increase both totals at this week's $3.8 million Bell Canadian Open at the Royal Montreal Golf Club, which was found in 1873 and is the oldest golf club in North America.

Woods' won the World Golf Championship NEC Invitational in his last start two weeks ago, defeating Jim Furyk in a dramatic seven-hole playoff.

The win snapped a streak of five tournaments without a win dating back to early June.

A year ago, Woods won the Canadian Open by a stroke over Grant Waite to cap a rare feat of winning the US, British and Canadian Opens in the same season.

What may be more memorable is how Woods went about winning.

Woods owned a one-stroke lead playing the 72nd hole, the par-five 18th. After his tee shot found a bunker right of the fairway, Woods pulled off a miraculous approach shot — a six-iron out of a bunker, over water and right at the flag—that settled 18 feet behind the pin in the fringe.

Woods chipped to a foot and tapped in for birdie and the win. Unlike last week's Air Canada Championship field, which featured just four of the top 30 players on the PGA Tour money list, the Canadian Open field offers a marquee list.

In addition to Woods, there are European Ryder Cup wild card picks Sergio Garcia of Spain and Jesper Parnevik of Sweden, US Ryder Cup teammates Hal Sutton and Scott Verplank, Vijay Singh and John Daly, who won the European PGA Tour's BMW International Open last week.

Reuters

'Ratratan' final starts at 6 p.m.

THE "RATRATAN 6-Stag Derby" enters its championship round at 6 tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum featuring more than 45 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

In last Tuesday's qualifying round, 13 cockers and breeders from a field of 50 posted two victories each.

The frontrunners are Mauro Prieto (4-Stag Pasay Sept. 28), Steven Cunanan (AC 12 BCI Orani Bataan), Gerry Fevidal (Geran Sept. 10-12 NCA), Ram Lopez (Altuz Oct. 16-18), Boy de Roca (Ben Dante), Louie Cua (LCC 555), Vic Yu (Sir Vincent Sept. 15 5-Stag), Alex Tang and Nelson Co (Guts and Glory), Pol Estrellado (Ucap 7-Stag Sept. 25-27), Boyboy Roa (CPB PBRJ), Elwin Javelosa and Otik Geroso (GF-BAN Alfie) and Eric dela Rosa (LCC Oct. 12 4-Stag Pasay).

Set to follow next week is the exciting race for Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2001 as Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos play hosts to the "1st Ucap/BJ Greenwood 7-Stag Derby".

Six Ucap-supported stagfests will serve as basis in selecting the "Stagfighter" winner. For inquiries, call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Real McCoy 2. Hot Lips 3. Vigor 4. Always 5. Oiker's Glory

Race 2—1. Commandments 2. Princess Helena 3. Tender Value 4. Royal Soldier

Race 3—1. Air Love 2. I Dare You 3. The T[illegible] 4. Trick Shot 5. Jerold's Dream

Race 4—1. Headline News 2. Tochinic 3. Isabel's Gossip 4. Titan 5. Blue Set

Race 5—1. Tanging Ikaw 2. Take Chances 3. Star Sapphire 4. Innovation

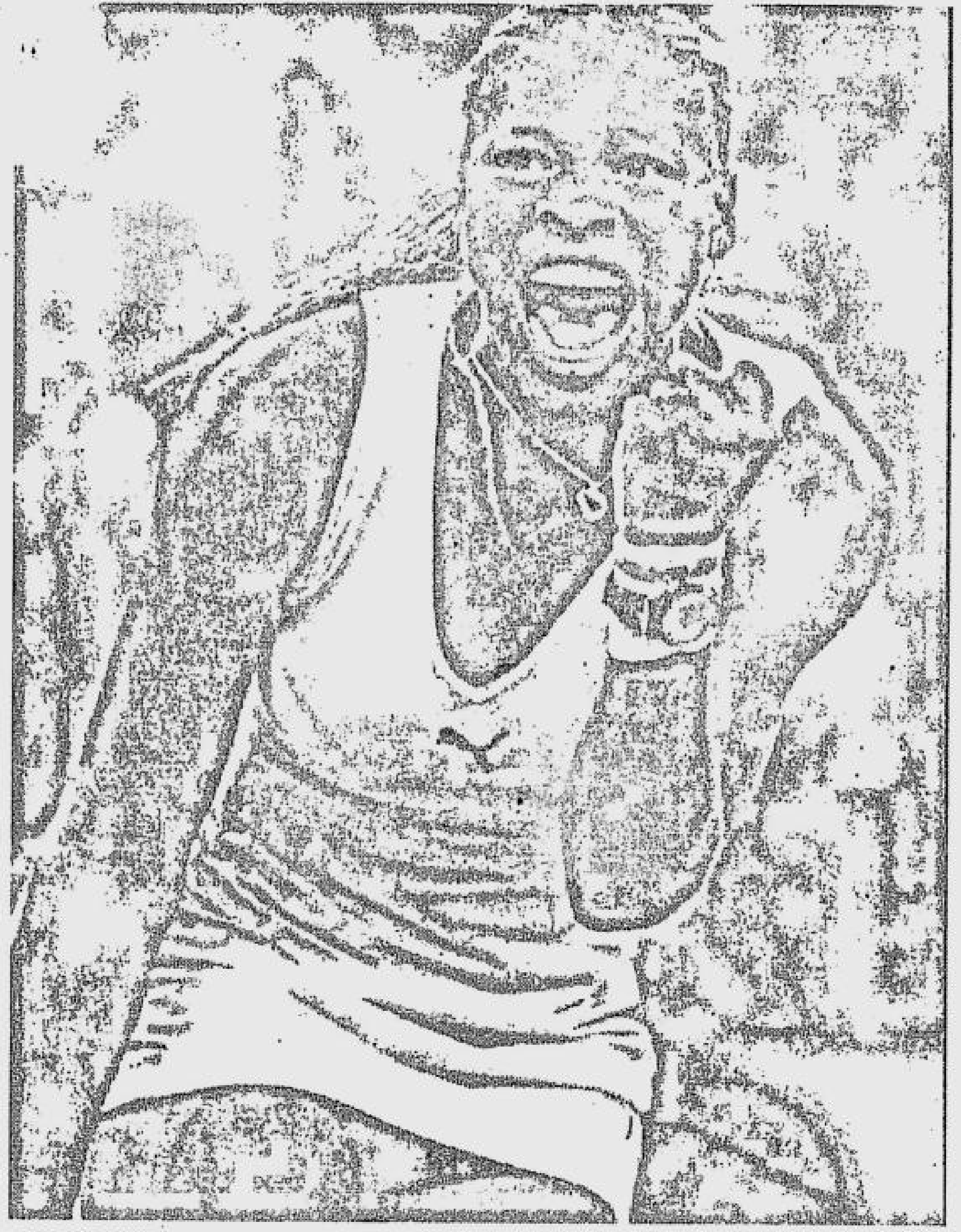
Race 6—1. Monopoly 2. Peace Offering 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Queen Storm 5. Tower of Power

Race 7—1. Modulo Queen 2. Jackpot 3. Hunting Treasure 4. Brilliant Leader 5. Inside Treasure 6. Batang Bata

Race 8—1. Noble Principality 2. Kingair 3. Sunrise 4. Scholar Tem 5. Princess Malinda

Race 9—1. Eagle Song 2. Living Legend 3. Renegade 4. Justine's Quest 5. Let Me Pass 6. Romario

Graham to Monico: No monkey business here



SERENA Williams reacts after beating Lindsay Davenport, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 7-5, at the US Open Tennis Championship Tuesday in New York. Martina Hingis also advanced to the semifinals with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Daja Bedanova. AP

GUSTAVO Kuerten of Brazil serves to Albert Costa of Spain at the US Open tennis tournament in New York. Kuerten won, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7). Other matches saw Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Arnaud Clement, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, and Andy Roddick defeat Tommy Robredo, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4. AP

By JUNE NAVARRO

THE GROUP of Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal yesterday assailed Rep. Monico Puentevella for criticizing what the Bacolod solon called "the bloated basketball delegation" to the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

Graham Lim, Literal's secretary general in the Basketball Association of the Philippines recognized by the International Basketball Federation, said the 59 other personnel included in their accreditation list will not be bankrolled by the Philippine Sports Commission.

"For Monico's information, the PSC will not spend a single centavo on these people. They will spend their own money and cheer for the national team," said Lim.

He added only a total of 34 people comprising the national team will be financially supported by the PSC. These include the men's and women's basketball teams (24), coaches (6) and support personnel (4).

Puentevella, a former commissioner of the PSC, lambasted Literal's group the other day, branding their move as junket trips that utterly lack "delicadeza."

"These people just want to cheer and see how the national team compete in the Games. There's no monkey business involved," said Lim.

On the inclusion of Jaime Dichaves, former President Estrada's crony, Lim said all the officials of their group were intentionally included in case these people want to witness the RP dribblers play.

"As a former PSC official, Monico should know that not all accreditation requests will automatically be bankrolled by the PSC," Lim said.

Lim noted that if delegation head Freddie Jalasco refuses to accredit the 59 other people included in the RP basketball contingent, he would directly go to the Malaysian Olympic Committee to ask for accreditation on behalf of the 59 other basketball personnel.

Titanic battle expected in Sampras-Agassi today

NEW YORK—For his next trick, Pete Sampras takes his high-wire act at the U.S. Open into a matchup against Andre Agassi, no simple matter for the Grand Slam title record holder.

Sampras eliminated two-time champion Patrick Rafter of Australia, and Agassi ousted upstart Swiss Roger Federer to set up a heavyweight quarterfinal Wednesday night in America's Grand Slam.

They are the two oldest players in the draw - Agassi 31, Sampras 30 - resuming their rivalry in a match that might be more appropriate for a final instead of a quarter. Sampras leads the series 17-14 but Agassi has won the last three meetings, including two finals this year.

The last time they met at the Open was in the 1995 final, which Sampras won in four sets. Their last Grand Slam meeting was in the Australian Open final last year, when Agassi won in five sets.

The three losses to Agassi this year are part of a 17-tournament slump Sampras has endured since setting a record by winning his 13th Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in 2000.

The drought led to a No. 10 seed at the Open, a tournament he has won four times.

Sampras viewed the season's final Grand Slam as a chance to save his summer but the draw did not make it a simple task, facing Rafter and Agassi in successive matches.

"I've had a few challenges over the year, but yeah, this is a very, very tough draw, even from my first match on," Sampras said, "To play Pat in the 16 and back it up against Andre, this is about as tough as it's going to get. It's a huge challenge.

"He's one of the best ever. He, like Pat, brings out the best in me. I'm going to have to play very well to beat him. He feels the same way against me. There's a lot of respect. There's a lot of history we have. It should produce some good tennis."

Sampras is equipped with one of the best serves in the game and Agassi with one of the best returns. That should make for compelling tennis. *AP*

Back-to-wall UST battles De La Salle

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
La Salle	9	2	FEU	5	6
Ateneo	9	2	UST	5	6
NU	7	4	UP	3	8
UE	6	5	Adamson	0	11

GAMES TODAY (Loyola Gym)
12:30 p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Jrs)
2:30 p.m.—FEU vs Adamson (Jrs)
5:00 p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Srs)

By DENNIS U. EROA

BACK to Earth after it got beaten by National University, defending champion La Salle hopes to reclaim the top spot when it goes for a repeat against University of Santo Tomas today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

"A sign of a good team is for it to be able to bounce back," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. The Green Archers are tied with the Ateneo Blue Eagles on top of the eight-team field with nine wins in 11 games.

The La Salle-University of Santo Tomas match is set at 5 p.m. The Archers whipped the Tigers, 87-73, last July 26 at the Philsports Arena but the España-based dribblers are hot on the trail of a Final Four slot.

Pumaren said La Salle, which missed Ren Ren Ritualo in the fourth quarter, didn't play its usual game against National University. The Archers also committed 30 turnovers against 18 for the Bulldogs.

Stags defeat Altas, 66-64

Games Saturday (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—Letran vs CSB (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda College (jrs/srs)

SAN Sebastian College beat University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 66-64, yesterday to grab second spot in the NCAA men's basketball at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Pint-sized Christian Coronel made a crucial steal while sniper Mark Macapagal split his charities in the fading moments as the Stags jacked up their record to 7-4.

Another victory will catapult the Stags to the elite Final Four circle with top semifinalist Jose Rizal University (9-1). They will next face the Mapua Cardinals on Monday.

The Altas, who absorbed their fifth consecutive setback, went down to 4-8. They need to win their last two games and hope Letran and Mapua falter in their succeeding matches to force at least a playoff.

It was also the Altas' fourth straight loss against the Stags since the Recto-based dribblers swept the Altas in the Final Four last year.

The 5-foot-8 Coronel intercepted Gilbert Malabanan's wayward pass to a streaking Anthony Cosme with 14 seconds to play that pushed the Altas on the brink.

Coronel then rifled an assist to Macapagal, who was fouled by Jayson Jensen and sealed the Altas' doom after sinking the last of his two charities that pegged the final count.

The Altas dashed to take the game away but Chester Tolomia's heave at the three-point area touched nothing but air.

SSC 66—Macapagal 19, Najorda 12, Moore 10, Alfad 9, Coronel 8, Reguerra 4, Uy 2, Mercado 2, Falcasantos 0, Morales 0, Baluyot 0.

UPHR 64—Malabanan 18, Tolomia 14, Cuenco 11, Cosme 9, Ibrahim 9, Hawkins 2, Quiazon 1, Alejandro 0, Romulo 0.

Quarters: 15-14, 33-31, 44-42, 66-64

San Mig at PCU

THE DOLPHINS of Philippine Christian University take time off from their National Collegiate Athletic Association schedule today to host the San Miguel Beermen as the Rexona-Philippine Basketball Association Ultimate Challenge winds up at the PCU gym along Taft Avenue.

The Beermen will be seeing action for the first time since being upset by Red Bull in the Commissioner's Cup Finals, and the Dolphins get the unenviable task of playing San Miguel first before their throng of supporters starting at 3 p.m. today.

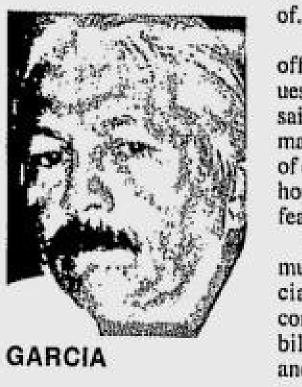
GYMNASTS LEAVE

ROGER MARGALLO

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit (fifth from right) and chief of mission Freddie Jalasco join the national gymnastics team members led by Pia Adelle Reyes (second from left) yesterday for the trip to Kuala Lumpur for the 2001 Southeast Asian Games Sept. 8-18.

Garcia in KL: Everything's in place here

KUALA LUMPUR - SEA Games Task Force Chief Richie Garcia flew in Tuesday and kept himself busy making the final check on accommodations, food and other important matters for the bulk of the national delegation due to arrive here today.



GARCIA

"As far as the KL (Kuala Lumpur) sites are concerned, no problems so far, everything's basically in place," said Garcia.

Garcia is laying out the preparations for the welcome of the bulk of the delegation arriving today including First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Philippine Sports Commission Chairman Butch Tuason.

There are three Malaysian states hosting the 21st edition of biennial meet and delegation officials will have their hands full taking long trips to check on the well being of the athletes.

Though most of the events will be played in Kuala Lumpur, four will be staged in Johor Bahru and another four will be played in Penang.

Garcia was to provide Tuason with an initial report of the venues when they meet Thursday evening.

PSC officials Cynthia Carrion and Weena Lim will also be assigned to the other venues, ensuring that the needs of the athletes are taken care of.

"There will be PSC officials in all three venues, we made sure of that," said Garcia. "We will be making quick evaluations of every performance and hopefully come up with feasibilities."

Garcia has also communicated with top officials of the organizing committee on matters like billeting, transportation and communications, as well as Saturday's opening ceremonies.

The medical facilities, according to Garcia, "are quite modern." He said players would be given the proper attention if the need arose.

He also took the time to check on the Philippine teams already in Kuala Lumpur, including the golf team, which has been here as early as last week.

Nat'l cagers subdue MBA foes

By Roy Luarca

CHITO Victolero and Chris Calaguio struck at the right moment, lifting the Philippine Team past the MBA All-Stars, 96-90, last night in an exhibition game at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Just when the All-Stars turned cold, Andok's San Juan's dynamic duo found their mark and sparked a crippling 20-point run that turned the game around in the fourth quarter.

The All-Stars were ahead by 12 points before they got blanked by the Nationals' extended 1-2-3 zone for eight minutes, reversing the outcome.

It was a happy send-off to the Southeast Asian Games-bound Nationals, who are leaving for Kuala Lumpur today to defend their men's basketball crown.

Victolero accounted for nine points and Calaguio hit back-to-back triples in a 20-point run that transformed a 12-point deficit into a 91-83 lead for the Nationals of coach Boyzie Zamar.

Despite being formed only two days ago, the All-Stars did gave the Nationals a scare, leading by as many as 12 points as All-Stars coach Philip Cezar fielded an all Fil-Am crew of Alex Compton, Rafi Reavis, Chris Clay, Cid White and Jeffrey Flowers.

The All-Stars were still ahead, 80-69, at the end of the third quarter as Danny Capobres and Tonyboy Espinosa combined in a closing five-point spurt.

Calaguio wound up with a game-high 22 points, five rebounds, four assists and one steal to share player of the game honors with Victolero, who finished with 15 points, seven rebounds, eight steals and five rebounds.

RP TEAM 96—Calaguio 22, Victolero 15, Tierra 14, Addueul 12, Ferriols 10, Martin 7, Laure 5, Rodriguez 4, Mendiola 4, Dela Rosa 3, Hizon 0, Echavez 0.

MBA ALL STAR 90—Flowers 14, Clay 13, Alvarez 12, Compton 11, Reavis 10, Aquino 7, Capobres 7, White 6, Santamaria 1, Hugnatan 2, Serrano 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 47-55, 69-80, 96-90.

Enthusiasm grows for Batang Pinoy

RESPONSE to the Batang Pinoy-Philippine National Youth Games (BP-PNYG) turned feverish in the second leg of the program's management and marketing lectures and seminar at the PhilSports in Pasig City.

LIM

Over 250 delegates from the National Capital Region (NCR), Southern Tagalog and portions of Central Luzon regions are taking part in the three-day event that started Tuesday.

"The enthusiasm has grown since we came up with this component of the BP-PNYG that focuses on the management and marketing aspect of the program," said Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim, who graced the opening ceremonies.

"The focus of these lectures and seminars is to encourage the sports leaders and organizers in the local government units in marketing and managing sporting events," she said, "with the purpose of coming up with several small competitions that they could claim they themselves organized."

"One of the objectives is to have as many competitions as possible starting from the barangay to the provincial and regional levels," Lim explained. "We believe that more competitions breed excellence."

In underlining the fact that government funding would not always be enough to finance as many competitions as possible, Lim said the lectures and seminars would provide the delegates the technical know-how on how to organize competitions with the least possible expenses.

Besides Lim, other speakers included Ramon Suzara, BP-PNYG technical director, and Eduardo Lim, the program's administrative projects director.

The seminars and lectures lured 350 delegates when it kicked off up north in Baguio City last Aug. 28 to 30. There are two more legs that are forthcoming— Sept. 19 to 21 in Bacolod City and Oct. 2 to 4 in General Santos City.

The BP-PNYG also conducted coaching and training seminars to polish further the program whose third edition will be staged Dec. 1-7 in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The BP-PNYG caters to children athletes aged 13 and below. Competitions are in athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, dancesports, football, gymnastics, karatedo, lawn tennis, Little League baseball and softball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2001- Men's and Women's Quarter Finals at 7 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Air Canada Championship, Final Round at 1:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Asian PGA Tour/ Davidoff Tour - ROC PGA Championship at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. on ESPN

BOWLING: Women's Bowling Association at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power at 4:30 p.m. on Star Sports

SBK World Superbikes Championship at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SOCCER: World Cup Qualifying Matches - Spain vs Austria at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN

TOUGH on the ROAD
easy on the budget
Built Tougher & More Affordable
ISUZU ELF TILTING CAB POWER STEERING ENGINE TYPE 4BA1, 4BC1, 4BC2
ISUZU NKR 4BC2 / 4BE1 14 FT. LONGPOWER STEERING STAKE BODY
PALLETIZED BODY ISUZU NKR 4BC2 ENGINE 14FT. LONG POWER STEERING 8 PALLETS CAP. 288 CASES
Triple your load capacity!
Our reconditioned trucks feature special chassis and body design for improved power and reliable performance
Also available: Isuzu • NKR • KT Wide Dropside Body • Aluminum Van Body • Insulated Van
WE PROVIDE LENGTH AND BODY TYPE PER CUSTOMER SPECIFICATIONS
3 Months Parts & 6 Months Service Warranty
We also offer Change Cab services
BENISON MOTORS
2204 Taft Ave. Pasay City
Call now: 831-8402 • 831-8404 • 831-8922 or Telefax 832-3296

Indians deal Red Sox 9th straight loss

BOSTON — Jim Thome homered twice and Juan Gonzalez drove in three runs Tuesday as the Cleveland Indians sent the Boston Red Sox to their ninth consecutive loss, 8-5.

Boston, on its longest losing streak since June 1994, remained a season-high 9-1/2 games behind the Yankees in the American League East.

Thome's 44th homer gave Cleveland a 1-0 lead in the second inning against Hideo Nomo (11-7), winless in seven starts since July 26.

Bartolo Colon (12-10) allowed four runs and 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings, and Bob Wickman got his 29th save.

Blue Jays 14, Yankees 0

In Toronto, Chris Carpenter (9-11) pitched a six-hitter for his second shutout of the season and rookie Felipe Lopez homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs as the Blue Jays beat the Yankees.

Toronto matched a season high with 17 hits, including Jose Cruz Jr.'s ninth homer against the Yankees this year.

New York lost by its largest margin since a 15-1 defeat at Boston on Sept. 1, 1990. But the Yankees still maintain a 9-1/2-game lead over the Red Sox, their largest in the AL East since 1998.

Andy Pettitte (14-9) allowed seven runs—six earned —and 10 hits in three innings, his shortest outing of the season.

White Sox 10, Tigers 1

In Chicago, Sean Lowe (7-4) and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, and Magglio Ordonez hit a two-run homer as Chicago completed a doubleheader sweep over Detroit.

AP

WINDSHIELD
OPEN ON SUNDAYS
CRACK REPAIR Atbp...
U.S. Pat.
LTO APPROVED!
NOT REPLACEMENT!
• CLEANS CAR AIRCON W/O DISASSEMBLY (US)
• CRACKS MORE THAN 24" LONG, GUARANTEED!
RESTORES VISIBILITY 75-90% STRENGTH 100%
• REPAIRS WINDSHIELD SCRATCH, LEAKS & DEFOGGER
CALL NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST #40 Kalayaan Ave., Q.C. or 820 Edsa, Makati City
#7 Perpetual Ave., Perpetual 8, Bacoor (infront of SM along Kawit Rd.)
Q.C. 435-6391/926-6829 Mktl. 472-8525/851-0062
Bacoor 417-5332 Or See Any Yellow Pages under Glass
CEBU - 233.5276 ' DAVAO 221.5329 ' ILO-ILO 337.3782 ' CDO 724.768
ISABELA 624.2583 ' BAGUIO 447.2724 ' BACOLOD 435.1889
DO HOME SERVICE
Bring this ad for P150 OFF Exp. 9/30/01
Website.http://members.aol.com/hitecom

LA SALLE SWIMMER

Jan Formalejo, a Grade 7-B pupil of La Salle Green Hills and an RP team member, won a silver medal for age group 11-12 in the 50-m backstroke and bronze for the 100m backstroke in the recent 1st Asian Age Group Swimming Championship in Hong Kong.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
New York	82	57	.590	
Boston	71	65	.522	9 1/2
Toronto	68	71	.489	14
Baltimore	55	83	.399	26 1/2
Tampa Bay	50	89	.360	32
Central				
Cleveland	79	59	.572	
Minnesota	72	66	.522	7
Chicago	71	67	.515	8
Kansas City	56	82	.406	23
Detroit	55	82	.401	23 1/2
West				
x-Seattle	99	40	.712	
Oakland	82	57	.590	17
Anaheim	70	68	.507	28 1/2
Texas	63	75	.456	35 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Atlanta	75	63	.544	
Philadelphia	72	66	.522	3
New York	67	72	.482	8 1/2
Florida	64	74	.464	11
Montreal	59	79	.428	16
Central				
Houston	81	57	.587	
Chicago	77	61	.558	4
St. Louis	75	63	.544	6
Milwaukee	61	77	.442	20
Cincinnati	56	82	.406	25
Pittsburgh	52	86	.377	29
West				
Arizona	78	60	.565	
San Francisco	77	62	.554	1 1/2
Los Angeles	75	63	.544	3
San Diego	69	70	.496	9 1/2
Colorado	61	76	.445	16 1/

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago White Sox 10, Detroit 1, 1st game; Chicago White Sox 4, Detroit 0, 2nd game; Toronto 14, N.Y. Yankees 0; Cleveland 8, Boston 5; Texas 6, Minnesota 5; Tampa Bay 8, Seattle 3, 10 innings; Kansas City 4, Anaheim 1; Oakland 6, Baltimore 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta 3, Montreal 2, Houston 7, Cincinnati 1; Florida 8, Chicago Cubs 1; Pittsburgh 5, Milwaukee 2, N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 3; Colorado 5, Los Angeles 2; St. Louis 6, San Diego 1; San Francisco 5, Arizona 2.

AP

RP Team main ... (From page A16)

Efren "Bata" Reyes, Warren Kiamco, Antonio Lining and Marlon Manalo lead the highly rated billiards and snooker team, while bemedaled Victor Espiritu and Arnel Querimit will topbill the cycling group.

Bowling boasts of Seoul Olympic gold medalist Arianne Cerdeña-Valdez, while Antonio Antonio and Jairulla Jaitulla will try to lift the national water polo team to the gold.

Wushu, a rich source of medals boasts of Mark Rosales and Bobby Co, while lawn balls, a debuting sport, will parade Vilma Greenlees, Alicia Knight and Milagros Witheridge. US-based Miguel Mendoza, Carlo Piccio, Lizza Danila, Lynette Ang, Miguel Molina, Mark Kalaw, Jenny Guerrero and Luica Dacanay comprise the swimming team.

The Philippines is competing in 29 of 32 events in a determined bid to improve on its fifth place finish two years ago in Brunei.

Filipino jins... (From page A16)

"Now we are expecting the women division to even perform better," added Gabriel, who, along with Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Sung Chon Hong, will lead the RP team which left yesterday morning via Singapore. From there the contingent will take 30-minute train ride to Johore Bahru.

Completing the national men's team are Tshomlee Go (fly), Manuel Rivero (bantam), Jeferthom Go (feather), Mark Rivero (welter), Dax Morfe (middle) and Dindo Simpao (heavy).

Daleen Cordero (fly), Kalindi Tamayo (feather), Veronica Domingo (light), Manel Sy-Ycasas (welter), Sally Solis (middle) and Margie Bonifacio (heavy) round up the women's squad.

10 YEARS AGO

ROGELIO Barcenilla shared third to sixth places after forcing Russian Vladimir Akopian to a draw at the conclusion of the World Junior chess championship in Mamaia, Romania. Akopian won the title.

United Auctioneers, Inc.
C.B.U.
3-DAY UNRESERVED TRUCKS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT AUCTION
2 OF 40 ISUZU WING VANS
40 Wing Vans
SEPTEMBER 26, 27 & 28, 2001
Sale Starts At 8:30am Sharp
■ NO MINIMUM PRICE! ■ TAXES and DUTIES PAID!
■ EVERYTHING SELLS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!!!
50 DOZERS — KOMATSU D50P-15
35 LOADERS — 1991 KOMATSU WA450
60 REF. VANS — 1998 CANTER REF. VANS
250 PASS. VANS — TOYOTA PASS. VANS 4x4
300 BIKES — 100 BIKES
The Most Complete Line-Up of Trucks and Heavy Equipment in Metro Manila!
Auction Style: PARADE
Excavators • Loaders • Graders • Ref. • Man Lifts. Cargo, Dump & Fire Trucks • Tankers • Generators Vans • Compressors • 4x4's • Jeeps • Trucks with Crane, and Thousands of other machines!!!
DATES OF INSPECTION: SEPT 23, 24 & 25, 2001
OFFICE PHONE: (632) 929-7868 • 920-5501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470/74
FAX: (632) 929-0260
E-MAIL: info@uauctioneers.com

Ride MORE For Less...

-KYMCO PULSAR P 56,000 ONLY

less [P56,000] is more [Kymco Pulsar]

KYMCO Pulsar 125

Available at all leading motorcycle dealers nationwide

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

SEA GAMES

RP Team main bulk off today

BY DENNIS EROA

A TOTAL of 320 athletes and officials seeing action in the 21st Southeast Asian Games will leave today for Kuala Lumpur via Singapore Air Lines.

This is the main body of the Philippine delegation to the biennial sportsfest which starts with a festive opening ceremonies on Saturday (Sept. 8) at Malaysia's National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Today's group which will depart in two batches aboard Singapore Air Lines will be headed by Carlos Tuason, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, Commissioner Amparo 'Weena' Lim and Gen. Mario Tanchanco (ret.), the delegation's assistant chef de mission.

LERIO

DANILA

Already in the Malaysian capital are chef de mission Freddie Jalasco and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit. They left with the members of gymnastics, diving, sepak takraw, shooting, volleyball, taekwondo and wushu teams yesterday. Also in the group were assistant chef de misison Ed Ledesma, Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera and Julian Camacho.

Even as this developed, the country's gold medal bid started on the wrong foot as the Philippine women's football team was crushed by highly favored Thailand, 4-0, Tuesday.

Also leaving today are athletes and officials from archery, billiards and snooker, fencing, table tennis, basketball, lawn tennis, badminton, swimming, karatedo, cycling, water polo, bowling, shooting and squash, wushu, weightlifting, pencak silat and lawn balls.

Olympian Danny Lerio, Larry Semillano and Romeo Brin banner a strong boxing team which will try to upstage Thailand in the battle for overall honors.

RP TEAM/ A15

Filipino jins eyeing 4 golds

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE PHILIPPINE taekwondo team vowed to get at least four golds as they aim to retain the Southeast Asian Games overall championships when the event is held Sept. 9-11 in Johore Bahru, Malaysia.

Head coach Manuel Gabriel said the RP jins promised to duplicate the four gold medals they won two years ago in the biennial event, the same output that helped them pocket the overall title during the 1999 Brunei edition.

However, Gabriel said Vietnam is expected to provide stiff competition considering their impressive showing in last year's SEA Taekwondo Union championships.

"We are fielding a combination of veterans and fresh blood unlike in Brunei where we had a solid lineup," said Gabriel. "The Vietnamese, on the other hand, are all ripe. They would be our toughest competitors in the region today."

Just the same, the Nationals are banking on Sydney Olympians Roberto Cruz (finweight), Donnie Geisler (light), Eva Marie Ditan (fin) and Jasmin Strachan (bantam) to take home the overall honors.

Their task is to duplicate, if not surpass, their performance two years ago when they copped four gold medals–courtesy of Cruz, Geisler, Jeferthom Go and Alessandro Lubiano–four silvers and six bronzes.

FILIPINO/ A15

At the Men's Wear Department

collezione

Knitted sport shirts in great new colors. Your choice of weaves

SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

THE POWER TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE SMART zed™

Get the latest UAAP scores and news as they happen on your SMART celfone.

Get realtime UAAP updates on your SMART cellfone with SMART zed. Just text the following keywords to 288. For the latest scores, key in **UAAP NEWS**. For game skeds, **UAAP SKED**. To get scores and skeds as they happen, key in **PKG START UAAP**. So get hardcourt updates the easy way with SMART zed.

UAAP NEWS To get the latest UAAP scores

Rico J goes to war against CD pirates A18

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Street vendors lay siege to City Hall A18

Mayor sacked for operating trash dumpsite

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has ordered the suspension of the mayor of Bacoor, Cavite for allowing the continued operation of a dumpsite that had no environmental permit.

In a resolution issued on Sept. 3, Mayor Jessie Castillo was ordered suspended for 90 days because of his pending graft case before the Sandiganbayan concerning the illegal operation of a garbage site in Villa Esperanza since 1998.

He was charged recently with graft, together with the caretakers of Villa Esperanza—Melencio Arciaga and Emerenciano Arciaga.

The dumpsite had no environmental compliance certificate (ECC) or any permit from the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The charge sheet or criminal information against the mayor said that Castillo gave unwarranted benefits to the caretakers of Villa Eperanza by allowing the operation of the dumpsite.

The dumpsite inside Villa Esperanza continued to operate despite a cease and desist order from the DENR, "thereby causing undue injury to residents and students in the area, who had to endure the stench, flies, rats and mosquitoes emanating from the dumpsite."

Before Castillo was arraigned, he filed a motion to quash the charge claiming the offense had been decriminalized with the passage of Republic Act 9003.

But the Ombudsman did not agree to

MAYOR/A18

Slow down...
Relax...
And feel brand new again...

ORIENT day spa

ALABANG
3/F Doña Marta Building Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa
850-9055
850-8841
850-9666

QUEZON CITY
24 Mahusay St., corner Maginhawa St., UP Village Diliman

MAKATI CITY
Garden Level, Corinthian Plaza
Paseo de Roxas, Greenbelt Makati

Take time off to indulge yourself in total pampering and relaxation. Reverse the damaging effects of stress and discover what it truly means to be beautiful and healthy.

At Orient Day Spa, face and body care professionals provide total healing based on 2000 year old oriental teachings. Consultation with our life strategists offer traditional and alternative options for beauty and wellness.

FOR STRESS REDUCING
FACIAL • MASSAGE • BODY TREATMENTS

Fejodap head passes away

TRANSPORT group leader Romualdo "Romy" Maranan succumbed to heart attack Tuesday night, shortly after attending a series of meetings.

He was 60.

Maranan, president of the 150,000-strong Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers of the Philippines (Fejodap), was on his way to another meeting when he collapsed inside the Fejodap office in Scout Reyes at about 7 p.m. Tuesday.

He was rushed to the Capitol Medical Center by his staff but he was pronounced dead a few minutes later, according to his secretary Fanny Velasco.

A native of Alitagtag, Batangas, Maranan founded the transport group Fejodap and has been president since 1981.

In 1988, he was elected city councilor of Manila and was director of the Philippine Councilors League-Metro Manila chapter.

Maranan was also active in several civic and labor organizations, including the Lion's International, Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, Pambansang Samahan ng Anak-Pawis and the Confederation of Land Transportation Industry Board Foundation.

He is survived by his wife, Zenaida, children Ma. Paz, Sergio Hilario, Maricar, Maribel, Noel and Dante.

Maranan's remains lie in state at their residence in 740 Old Torres Subd., Tondo, Manila.

He will be brought to his hometown in Alitagtag, Batangas on Sept. 7 where his remains will be interred.

Andrea T. Echavez

MARANAN

LRT tokens on way out

IT IS tokens no more for Light Rail Transit passengers.

Starting Sunday, LRT tokens will be replaced by magnetic cards similar to those used in the Metro Rail Transit.

"Even with that change, we won't be increasing the fare. It will still be the same at P12 and P2 for the last three stations," Light Rail Transit Administration chief Teodoro Cruz Jr. said in a news briefing yesterday.

The card will also have a pre-paid version that cost P120 each, good for at least 10 rides.

The Automatic Fare Collection System project cost over P419 million and was funded through a 10-year French Protocol loan.

However, a distance-related fare scheme, much like the one employed by the MRT, is in the offing.

"We are now conducting a study on what rates we will use for the distance-related fare collection scheme. It may be employed a year from now," LRT administrator Teodoro Cruz said.

He explained that they cannot immediately employ the scheme because a lot of factors, like daily ridership, have to be considered.

Abigail L. Ho

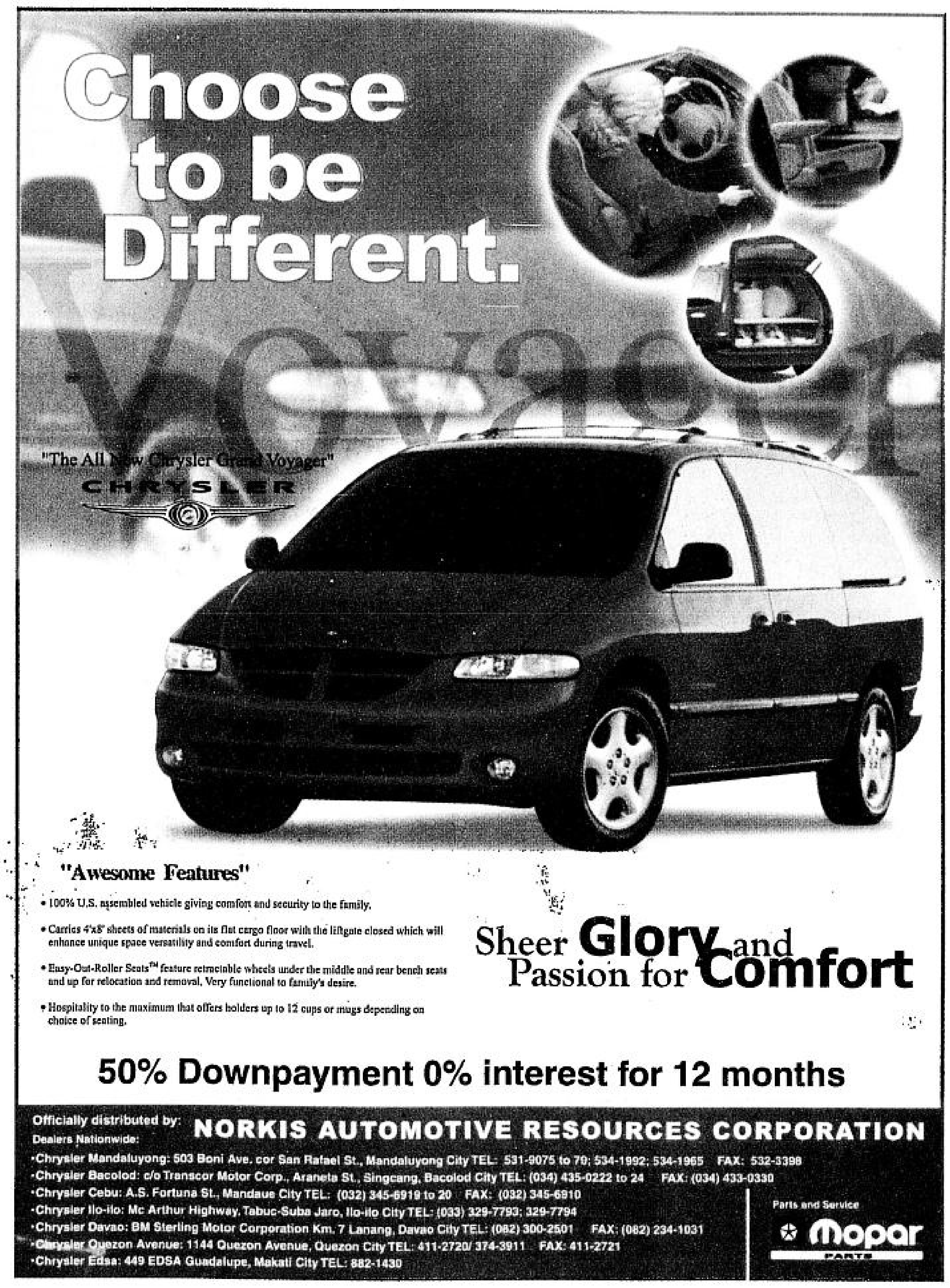
WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

BUMA 9595 KAMAGONG ST. MAKATI	ADLIBT ST. (REVIVAL)	AEGIS CONCERT SEPT. 29 896.2116/896.1939
CHATTERBOX WEST 41 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY	FAT SESSION FIRSTCIRCLE	ALLAN K SEPT. 8 411.3650/374.3750
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	J BROTHERS KNIGHTS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MABINI	STREETLIFE MIX-UP/MAJEED	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	KOOL JACKS FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	CITYBORN FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
KAMPO 2086 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	TRUE FAITH NXT PAGE / FIGURE 8	P 250 CONSUMABLE 373.7181/373.5110
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	RETROSPECT ENTITY	ANNA & JOJO 373.2221/373.7183
MUSIC WAREHOUSE	POWER OF 2 & SPECIAL GUEST	GRIN DEPT SEPT.7 735.1405/735.1280
MINI AVE MINDANAO AVE. COR. CONG'L, Q.C.	ICEBOX SPECIAL SHOW PAROKYA NI EDGAR/SEPT.14	SIDE A SEPT. 29 453.0080/925.3117
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	X-POZ	ALLAN K SEPT.26 ☎890.4735
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant	BUREAU	☎400.7438/39

OTHER PLACES

Cowboy Grill BIÑAN, LAGUNA	SPHERE MR. ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
PartyPlace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	NOX	TRUE FAITH OCT.12 ☎(045)961.3360
THE VENUE DAVAO JACINTO EXT. DAVAO	SPIRIT OF 67 ORANGE	TRUE FAITH SEPT.7 ☎(082)224 4150

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 912-8983



Choose to be Different.

"The All New Chrysler Grand Voyager"
CHRYSLER

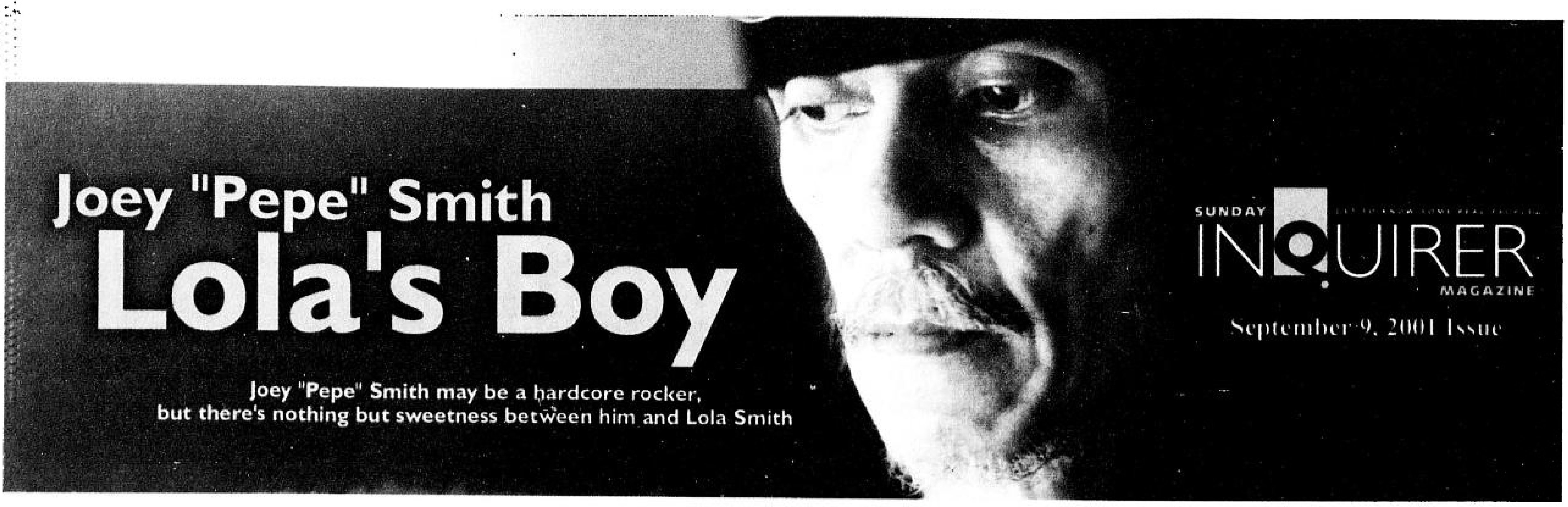
"Awesome Features"
- 100% U.S. assembled vehicle giving comfort and security to the family.
- Carries 4'x8' sheets of materials on its flat cargo floor with the liftgate closed which will enhance unique space versatility and comfort during travel.
- Easy-Out-Roller Seats™ feature retractable wheels under the middle and rear bench seats and up for relocation and removal. Very functional to family's desire.
- Hospitality to the maximum that offers holders up to 12 cups or mugs depending on choice of seating.

Sheer Glory and Passion for Comfort

50% Downpayment 0% interest for 12 months

Officially distributed by: NORKIS AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES CORPORATION
Dealers Nationwide:
·Chrysler Mandaluyong: 503 Boni Ave. cor San Rafael St., Mandaluyong City TEL: 531-9075 to 79; 534-1992; 534-1965 FAX: 532-3398
·Chrysler Bacolod: c/o Transcor Motor Corp., Araneta St., Singcang, Bacolod City TEL: (034) 435-0222 to 24 FAX: (034) 433-0330
·Chrysler Cebu: A.S. Fortuna St., Mandaue City TEL: (032) 345-6919 to 20 FAX: (032) 345-6910
·Chrysler Ilo-ilo: Mc Arthur Highway, Tabuc-Suba Jaro, Ilo-ilo City TEL: (033) 329-7793; 329-7794
·Chrysler Davao: BM Sterling Motor Corporation Km. 7 Lanang, Davao City TEL: (082) 300-2501 FAX: (082) 234-1031
·Chrysler Quezon Avenue: 1144 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City TEL: 411-2720/ 374-3911 FAX: 411-2721
·Chrysler Edsa: 449 EDSA Guadalupe, Makati City TEL: 882-1430

Parts and Service
Mopar PARTS



Joey "Pepe" Smith
Lola's Boy

Joey "Pepe" Smith may be a hardcore rocker,
but there's nothing but sweetness between him and Lola Smith

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE
September 9, 2001 Issue

Street vendors lay siege to City Hall

By Jerome Aning

ABOUT 500 vendors affected by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's controversial "sidewalk liberation" drive yesterday, picketed City Hall and demanded that they be restored before their families starve to death.

The protesters belong to the United Vendors Association Inc., the Flag-Sama sa Masa, Nagkakaisang Samahan and the Ilaya-Padre Faura Vendors Association Inc., based in the city's Binondo and Tondo districts.

"It's quite unfortunate that the mayor is prioritizing traffic instead of his constituents' hungry stomachs," one of the protesters, Divisoria vendor Ursula Manulay, 48, said in Filipino.

"We belong to the masses which he promised to help during the (election) campaign, but he won't even face us," said another vendor named Cipring.

The picket was ongoing as of press time and scores of policemen have been sent to the area.

The presidents of the vendors groups, Liwayway Arevalo, Joel Bangit, Fernando Camiling and Prescila Alfaro, said their demolished stalls "remain operative and legally subsisting" because they had religiously paid their license and concession dues as provided by the Metro manila Commission Ordinance No. 2, series of 1979.

The vendors said Ilaya, Juan Luna, Sta. Elena and M. De Santos streets were designated vending area or flea market in accordance with the ordinance.

But since last month, City Hall personnel have prohibited them from doing their trade on the area.

They said their eviction from their stalls are "discriminatory, oppressive, arbitrary, whimsical, capricious and vindictive," considering that those vending on the sidewalks of side streets such as Tabora, C. Planas, Sto. Cristo, Padre Rada, Fulguera, Elcano and Suncion are being allowed to do so.

The presidents said there are about 150,000 sidewalk vendors in the capital and, if their vending activities would only be regulated by City Hall, they could help augment the city government's income.

"We have contributed in no small measure to the stimulation of economic activity, the reduction of unemployment and the neutralization of urban property," the vendor's groups said in a joint statement.

On July 11, Atienza formed the Task Force Zero Obstruction to rid major city streets of sidewalk stalls and other illegal obstruction. He later said vendors could sell on the side streets under an organized vending program to be supervised by City Hall.

The vendors have brought up their plight to Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. but the latter referred it back to Atienza.

In a letter to Atienza dated Aug. 13, Lina said the vendors groups are willing to cooperate with City Hall on the implementations of policies and regulations on street vending.

"(T)hey also want to assure you that they will police their own ranks and put their stalls in such a way that they will not hamper the flow of pedestrians," Lina said.

ATIENZA

'Why no system in new dumpsite?'

By Agnes Donato

A SAN JUAN official yesterday hit the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for failing to inform local government units about the new temporary garbage dump in Rodriguez, Rizal before announcing it to the media.

Councilor Rolando Bernardo, chair of the local solid waste management committee, said he was surprised to hear that local government units had already been given a go-signal to dump garbage at a site in Rodriguez.

He said that MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. had not given local officials instructions regarding the dumping schedule or even mentioned that the place would be open for dumping in any of their previous meetings.

"I find this very confusing because there isn't even any system which LGUs can follow when dumping their garbage," Bernardo said.

"Chairman Abalos should have at least called for an emergency meeting and advised us regarding dumping rules and schedules to make things more organized," he added.

The councilor expressed concern that disgruntled Rizal residents might harass garbage truck drivers when they dump waste on the site in Rodriguez.

"Once, we were told by the MMDA that we could already dump garbage at the Coastal Road area. So we sent 10 of our trucks there, only to find out later that it was not allowed because of the complaints of local residents," Bernardo recalled.

Residents of Antipolo City had earlier vowed to block garbage trucks passing through the city on their way to the dump.

But Abalos assured that Antipolo folks had no reason to worry, as the trucks would use a shorter route by traversing the Kambal-Maarat Road, which connects Rodriguez to Metro Manila.

BJMP head hits back at accusers

BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology officer-in-charge Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit yesterday broke his silence on the controversy over his educational qualifications and said that he completed his master's degree in criminology at the International University of Missouri, USA, in 1997.

Alit said his detractors had a hidden agenda to discredit him and remove him from contention as the next chief of the BJMP. He said his detractors are backing another BJMP official whom witnesses claimed to be behind the smear campaign against him.

"This is what the controversy is all about. It's all about an overly ambitious group of a few disgruntled officers who wanted to take over the reins of the bureau. But this is a small group that has long been discredited," he said

Alit is the highest-ranking officer of the bureau. Before his appointment as officer-in-charge on March 30, he was deputy chief with the rank of chief superintendent.

Alit said he completed his off-campus, post-graduate degree from International University in 1997. He said he attended the graduation rites held at the Honolulu (Hawaii) chapter of International University on July 21, 1997. Dr. John W. Johnston, chancellor of International University, made the declaration of the graduating class.

Some of his classmates include officers of the Philippine National Police and BJMP,a ranking official of the National Police Commission and some from the academe.

The BJMP head said his detractors started accusing him of faking his college diploma from the Magsaysay Memorial Colleges in Tacurong, South Cotabato.

When the college and the regional office of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) certified he graduated from the local college, they accused the two institutions of collusion. They also questioned his master's degree obtained from International University.

Alit disclosed that one of his detractors, dismissed Supt. Renato Gacutan, is now facing perjury and libel cases before the Quezon City Prosecutors Office and the Rizal Provincial Prosecutors Office.

Rico J goes to war against CD pirates

'Manufacture, sale, renting of these materials equal to economic sabotage'

PUNO

By Leah Salterio

BUYERS of pirated CDs, VCDs and VHS tapes beware!

Entertainer and now Makati City Councilor Rico J. Puno, along with Councilor Oscar M. Ibay, has proposed an ordinance that would penalize not only the manufacturers and distributors of pirated video and audio discs, but also those who buy them or those found simply carrying them.

"We intend to punish those who buy, rent out or possess pirated materials," said Puno, whose hit records have been pirated and sold even on the sidewalks of Makati.

"If it can be implemented in Makati, we hope that other cities and municipalities will follow suit," Puno said.

Under the ordinance, a violator would be fined P3,000 or suffer imprisonment of three days but not more than five days for the first offense. The pirated tapes or discs found on the violator would also be confiscated.

For the second offense, the violator would be fined P5,000 or suffer imprisonment of three days, but not more than five days. All the pirated tapes and discs found on the violator would be also confiscated.

"We will also ask all the government agencies not to issue permits to companies which engage in piracy," Puno said.

Puno said that pirated VCDs, CDs and VHS tapes are sold at lower prices than original recordings produced by legitimate recording studios or film companies. This translates into huge losses in terms of sales of legitimate movie and record companies.

Recording artists and composers of songs also suffer losses in terms of royalty payments from the illegal sale of pirated audio recordings.

"The illegal materials are also openly sold in stalls, sidewalks, peddled on the streets by vendors and even rented out by registered video stores," Puno said.

The government also lose out on taxes supposed to be generated from the sales of the original materials, Puno said.

"The manufacturing, distribution, sales or renting out of pirated CDs, VHS and VCDs can be considered as economic sabotage and punishable under Philippine law," Puno said.

In line with his anti-piracy ordinance, Puno enjoined his fellow entertainers to band together for a concert to fight piracy.

Puno said he would lead the lineup of performers in "Thank You for the Music" on Sept. 27 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom.

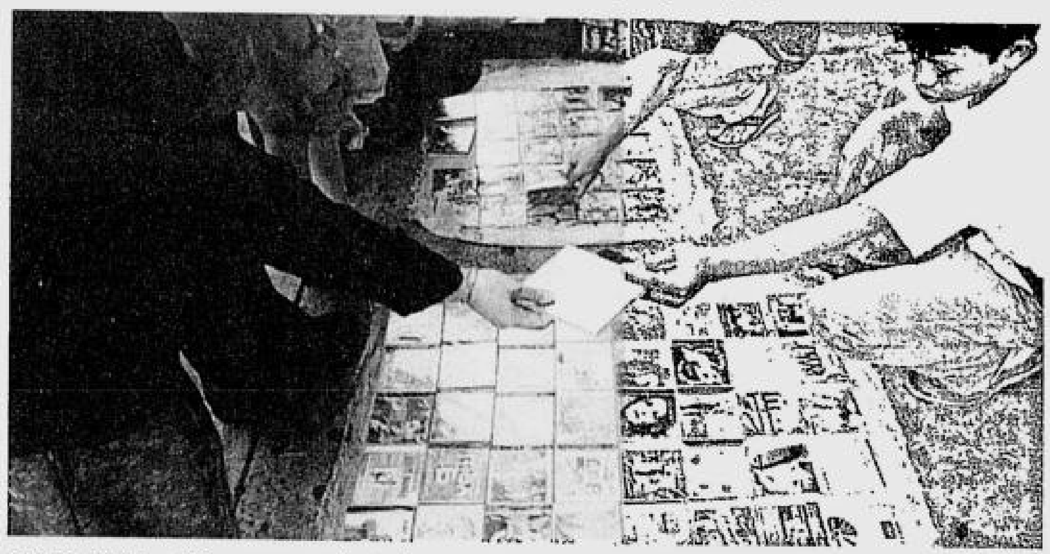
"We want to consolidate the efforts of the entertainment industry against the biggest current threat that is piracy," Puno said.

Also performing in the show are Mike Hanopol, Basil Valdez, Cesar Montano, Dulce, The Eraserheads, Chad Borja, Freestyle, Ivy Violan, Janno Gibbs, Marco Sison, Nanette Inventor, Ogie Alcasid and Richard Merck, among others.

"The seed money from the proceeds of this concert will be used to finance an information campaign to fight piracy," Puno said.

Puno also heads the Thank You for the Music Foundation, which intends to focus on fighting piracy through public awareness and communication work.

The advocacy concert will coincide with the 25th anniversary of Westin Philippine Plaza, making it the first hotel to support the anti-piracy campaign.


SALE of fake CDs goes unabated around the metropolitan area.

DENR chief stuns Mehan violators

By Cynthia D. Balana

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez has caught the proponents of the Park N Ride project at the Mehan Garden violating his order to stop the ongoing construction in the area.

Alvarez went to the site shortly after the Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on Tuesday and caught workers, engineers, foremen and project managers in the thick of construction work.

He said what he saw was a clear violation of the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) earlier issued by the DENR.

Alvarez was accompanied in his surprise visit by an aide, a staff and a photographer.

The project developers, who were then holding a construction meeting, were reportedly stunned as they looked at Alvarez walk straight into their makeshift office.

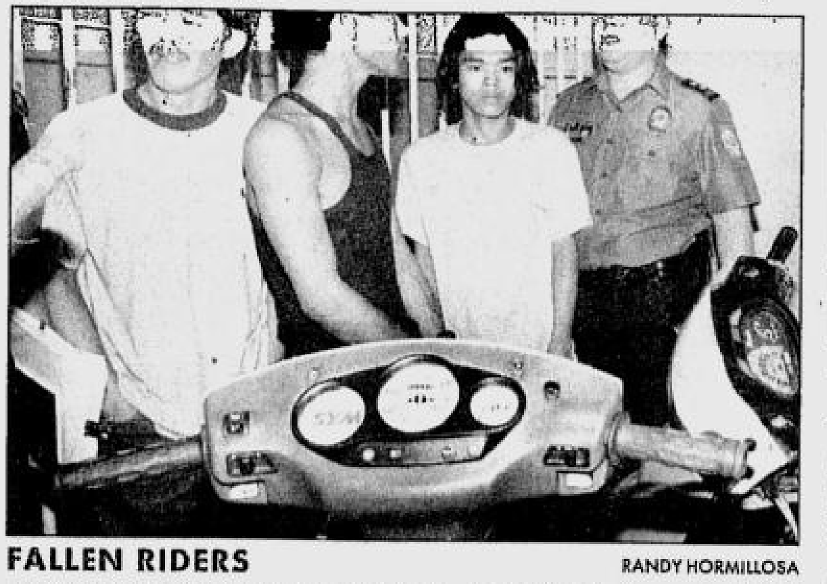
In the confusion, the meeting broke up and the firm's officers jumped from their seats to meet the secretary.

"What happened here is that the project proponent finds itself in the middle of a cessation order from the DENR and pressure from the Manila City Government to disregard the CDO. Nevertheless, it is not a valid excuse," an irate Alvarez said. "My visit here should serve as a warning to future violators that we will ensure that laws are implemented, and orders are obeyed."

Conservationists and non-governmental organizations have called the attention of Alvarez on the disregard of the CDO order by the Park N Ride proponents.

Vic Javier, President of Park N Ride Inc., admitted to Alvarez that they did halt construction activities upon receipt of the CDO.

He explained that they were under pressure by the Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza to continue work on the project.


FALLEN RIDERS

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Alleged "motorcycle gang " members Jesus Licay, Cesar Bulaklak and Severino Yabut, believed to be responsible for the death of college student Dominic Carlo Morano on June 3 and a spate of robberies in Mandaluyong City, are now in the hands of authorities. Police also arrested two other gang members, Eduardo Castillo and Antonio Geraldo, and seized from the suspects five short firearms and seven stolen motorcycles.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 6, 2001
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:9-14
Gospel: Lk 5:1-11

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary:

Feeling of unworthiness can make you worthy. After preaching to the crowds, Jesus turns on to Peter, asking him to row the boat back into the sea to catch fish. Peter is taken aback. It is no longer time to catch fish. His attempt the night before yielded no catch. The nets are just cleansed for the coming night. He cannot afford another exercise in futility. When he obeys, however, to his surprise he catches a lot of fish. Peter feels something strange inside, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Peter now feels unworthy to be with Jesus. But then, because Peter has the ability to listen, to risk, and to be humble, Jesus calls him, "From now on it is people you will catch." A harder task, but a great catch is already assured. Peter proves to be a good material for the mission.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Search on for top Filipinos

THE ANNUAL search for the outstanding Filipinos (Tofil) is on. The Tofil Awards are given to Outstanding Filipino men and women, at least 41 years old, whose achievements have made significant contributions to the betterment of their profession and uplift of national development.

Any individual, public or private entity or organization may nominate a candidate in any of the following fields : Agriculture, Arts/Culture, Business/Industry, Community/Humanitarian Services, Religious Work, Environmental Conservation, Education, Finance, Government/Public Service, Justice/Law, Labor, Medicine, Literature, Media, Military/Police Work, Science and Technology, Sports, Peace Advocacy.

Nominations are now accepted at all Philippine Jaycee Senate Chapter offices and at Insular field offices nationwide. For inquiries call Philippine Jaycee Senate Secretariat at 374—4390 or its National chair, Alfonso S. Maraña; at 646-3029 or the Search Committee chair Dodo Montemayor at (0917) 833-3923.

St. Mary's College concert

THE ST. Mary's College Alumni Foundation will present the "Ang4Gettables" in a concert tonight at the Downtown, Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City to raise funds for its scholarship and charitable programs.

The "Ang4Gettables" is composed of Dyords Javier, Pinky Marquez , Isay Alvarez and Mon David.

The show, sponsored by Veterano Brandy in cooperation with the PCSO and Crossover 105.1, will give Marians a chance to get together, reminisce over the good old days and help raise funds for the foundation's charitable causes.

Alumni president Ms Fe Silica S. Arellano and the new set of officers kicked off their activities on June 2 with a high school scholarship grant to Patricia Tating. The affair was witnessed by St. Mary's new Superior–Directress Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM, high school principal Cecile N. Temporal and grade school principal Teresita Agunoy.

Mayor . . .

(From page A17)

this, and asked the court to suspend Castillo from public office as the criminal information filed against him was "valid."

"As the validity of the information is no longer in issue and as a matter of procedure, the pre-trial conference has already been made and the parties have in fact agreed on the trial dates, there appears no cogent reason for the court to deny the motion of the public prosecutor to suspend the accused from public office," the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division said.

The motion to quash was denied by the court on Aug. 14.

The court said it would furnish the governor of Cavite a copy of its resolution suspending Castillo, which was promulgated on Sept. 3.

The Sandiganbayan also directed the governor to enforce the suspension within five days upon his receipt of the order.

Associate Justices Rodolfo Palattao, Narciso Nario and Nicodemo Ferrer signed the resolution.

Lacson turns down Corpus' challenge

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AT yesterday's Senate hearing, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus challenged Sen. Panfilo Lacson:

- To deny under oath that he has huge dollar accounts in Hong Kong, Canada and the United States.
- To issue a special power of attorney to the government giving it a blanket authority to look into his current and past dollar accounts.
- To undergo a lie detector test on his denial about the controversial accounts.

Lacson did not answer the Corpus' challenge during the hearing.

* * *

But in an interview with a reporter later, the neophyte senator from Cavite said that he was not accepting Corpus' challenge.

He said Corpus was asking too much.

Mr. Senator, if you're not hiding anything, why don't you accept Corpus' challenge?

Kasi, mabubuking ka!

* * *

An Army technical sergeant, Juanito Pascual, confirmed Lacson's involvement in the drug trade during the same Senate hearing.

Pascual said that he was among the soldiers who seized a big shipment of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in Sariaya, Quezon, last year.

A Chinoy who was allegedly the leader of the smugglers told Pascual: "*Bakit pakialaman ito, kay* Ping Lacson *naman ito?*"

The Chinoy reportedly was a close friend of then President Erap and Ping Lacson.

* * *

Everything is falling into place in Lacson's alleged involvement in the drug trade.

The testimony of Mary Ong, a.k.a Rosebud, pointing to Lacson's involvement in the drug trade has been bolstered by Sergeant Pascual's testimony.

I heard Pascual narrate to Colonel Corpus in the latter's office at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP) how he was approached by the Chinese-Filipino, Raymond Tan. This was on the night before yesterday's Senate hearing.

* * *

Asked why he didn't report that statement made by the Chinoy to his superiors, the sergeant said he was afraid of Lacson.

Pascual is right. Everybody was afraid of Lacson because aside from Erap he was the most powerful man in the country during the Erap presidency. He was so powerful he could order around the chief of staff of the Armed Forces who was his co-equal.

Lacson headed the infamous Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) which was not only composed of policemen but military personnel as well.

* * *

Even President Erap feared Lacson and now we know why: because he and the former Philippine National Police and PAOCTF chief were partners in crime.

Remember the time Lacson kicked the chair which was reserved for Erap at the launching of the Police Fund after Erap failed to attend the ceremony? He did it in front of many people.

Another president would have kicked Lacson as PNP chief the following day.

Kasi, takot na takot si **Erap** *kay* **Ping.**

On one occasion, Ping Lacson told friends he would arrest Erap if he would not be appointed PNP chief.

"This would probably be the first time a president of this country would be arrested. I would have him handcuffed," Ping was quoted by a friend as saying.

This was when Erap had a hard time choosing between Lacson and then Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco for the top PNP post.

The rest is history. But would Ping Lacson have made good his threat if he didn't get the PNP post?

* * *

The fear of Lacson was not unfounded.

Look what happened to publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

* * *

Had I known about Lacson's shenanigans during the time of President Erap, I would not be writing his column now.

I would have exposed Lacson, but at what cost?

Lucky for me, I learned about his involvement in criminal activities after Erap was kicked out of office through Edsa II.

Lacson, though, still wields tremendous power. A source within the Lacson's inner circle told me the beleaguered senator "has plans" for me, former PNP chief Roberto "Bobby" Lastimoso and Corpus.

Asked what those "plans" were, the source said they were something "physical."

Good luck, Ping!

Taguig wants to turn Camp Bagong Diwa into IT park

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE MUNICIPALITY of Taguig wants to kick out the Philippine National Police's Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan and turn its prime property into an "information technology park."

Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga is set to submit a proposal for the conversion of the property to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The camp is home to the PNP's National Capital Region Police Office headquarters, the Metro Manila Drug Rehabilation Center, the Bureau of Immigration's detention center and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility, which occupies about half a hectare of property or the size of a city block.

"We don't need a camp in the middle of our municipality for it poses a danger to our community," Tinga said in a statement. "The conversion of Camp Bagong Diwa into an IT facility is a definitive solution and will help generate more jobs for the people of Taguig."

The BJMP jail recently welcomed as a "guest" of the state Hector Janjalani, a suspected leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group and brother of ASG co-founder Khadafy Janjalani.

The trial of Janjalani, charged with drug possession, kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms, was moved from Zamboanga City to Metro Manila for security reasons.

Under the conversion plan, the "information technology and communication park" will be supervised by the Department of Science and Technology and will be open to foreign investors. Proceeds from the possible privatization will benefit the PNP, Tinga stressed.

Tinga believed that the lives of residents around the camp are in jeopardy because of Janjalani's presence in the camp, which is but a stone's throw away from Maharlika Village—home to the biggest Muslim community outside Mindanao.

The mayor pointed out that the camp is not secure because its south side—-which runs about 800 meters—is unfenced and unguarded. Tinga feared that the camp's continued presence in Bicutan would only drive away industries, tourists and investments from Taguig.

Earlier, the municipal council of Taguig passed a resolution opposing the transfer of Janjalani because of security reasons. Tinga himself voiced his opposition to the move.

Janjalani, who is being watched by some 200 BJMP guards, was transferred last week under heavy guard.

He stands accused with 43 others, all suspected members and supporters of the ASG. They are awaiting transfer from Zamboanga City to Camp Bagong Diwa for trial.

Robbed and killed in QC

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

SECURITY guard Omar J. Abdulatip, 25, also worked as a tricycle driver to make ends meet for his family in Quezon City.

But tragedy struck Monday night when three suspected robbers, one of them a woman, reportedly held up Adulatip.

Not contented with just taking his day's earnings, the culprits also shot him dead.

Abdulatip, of Tulip Street, Fairview, Quezon City, died from a gunshot wound in the chest, said SPO3 Resty de Leon, of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

The victim's wife, Kaipa Abdulatip-Sacandal, positively identified Omar's body after it was found dead in Fairview.

Witnesses told police they saw Abdulatip pick up two men and a woman at the tricycle terminal on the corner of Regalado and Commonwealth Avenue about 9:30 p.m.

That was the last time Abdulatip was seen alive, SPO3 de Leon said.

About 11:30 p.m., residents living near the corner of Camaro and Excel streets in Fairview noticed a commotion on the street.

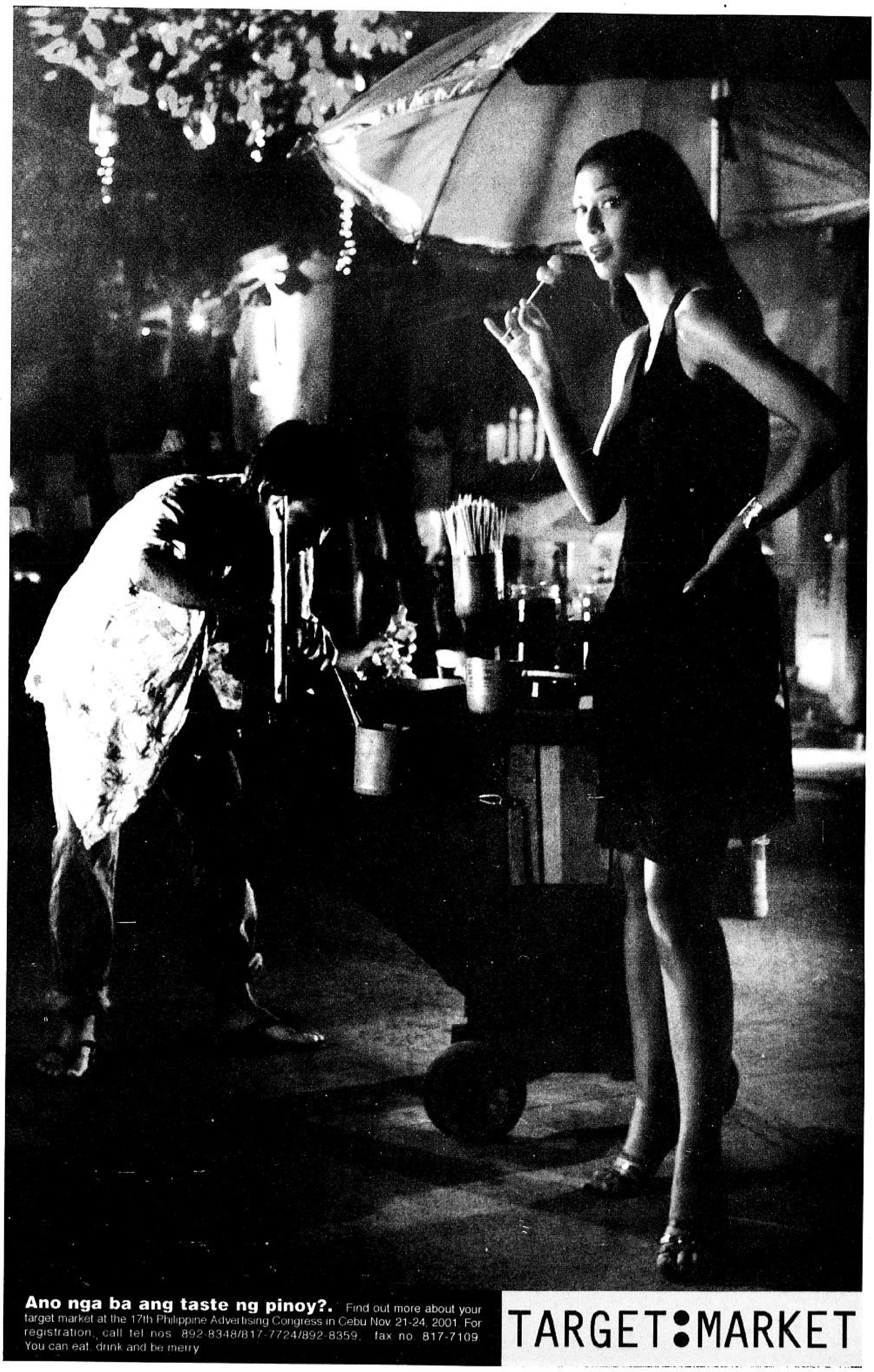
When they looked outside, they saw the body of a man sprawled on a street corner, drenched in his own blood, De Leon said.

SBS homecoming

THE CLASS of '78 of St. Bridget's School in Quezon City will hold a meeting to plan their grand alumni homecoming on Sept. 15, 11 a.m. at Sweet Inspirations Katipunan (in front of Ateneo's Gate 3) in Quezon City.

For details, class members are advised to contact Julie Javellana Santos at 712-9230, Monica Sison-Ramirez at 951-7333, Ivi Serame-Sta. Ana at 426-0946, or Jennifer "Che" Chonco-Santos at 743-9106.

All class members (both sections) are invited to attend..



Ano nga ba ang taste ng pinoy?. Find out more about your target market at the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu Nov 21-24, 2001. For registration, call tel nos. 892-8348/817-7724/892-8359. fax no. 817-7109. You can eat, drink and be merry

TARGET:MARKET

www.philadcongress.com

SMART
SHOCK
NATIO
August 31 to Se
It's Back! It's Big
PHILIPS
SMART
₱3,390
Philips Vogue
₱3,
Ericsson A2628
₱4,590
Ozeo
₱5,59
Alcatel OT 302
NO

SMART gives a big explosion of celfone & SIM discounts so you can experience the amazing perks of SMART Money and SMART zed!

SMART Buddy Pre-paid Blast

- **Up to 30% off on SIM Packs**
- **Super deals on Nokia, Philips, Alcatel, Ericsson, and Siemens celfones!**
- **Free SMART SIM Swap to SMART zed Plus or SMART Money**

SMART GOLD Rush

- **SWITCH NOW & AVAIL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

PACKAGE I	
Nokia 3310 (Plan 1200)	FREE
Nokia 3330 (Plan 1800)	
Siemens S35i (Plan 3000)	
Nokia 6210 (Plan 4000)	

For non-SMART post-paid and PriceBuster subscribers with 2 months ave. billing of at least ₱800: 12-month contract.

PACKAGE 2	
Nokia 8210 (Plan 1800)	FREE
Nokia 8250 (Plan 3000)	
Nokia 8850 (Plan 4000)	

For non-SMART post-paid and PriceBuster subscribers with 2 months ave. billing of at least ₱1800 and up: 18-month contract.

- **NEW INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE**
  - Nokia 3310 only ₱3,995 at Plan 600
  - FREE Smart GSM celfone for higher plans
- **NO ENTRANCE FEE**
- **IMMEDIATE ACTIVATION**
- **FREE SMART MONEY OR ZED PLUS 32K SIM PACK ON ALL DEALS**
- **FREE SIM SWAP**

SMART ACeS

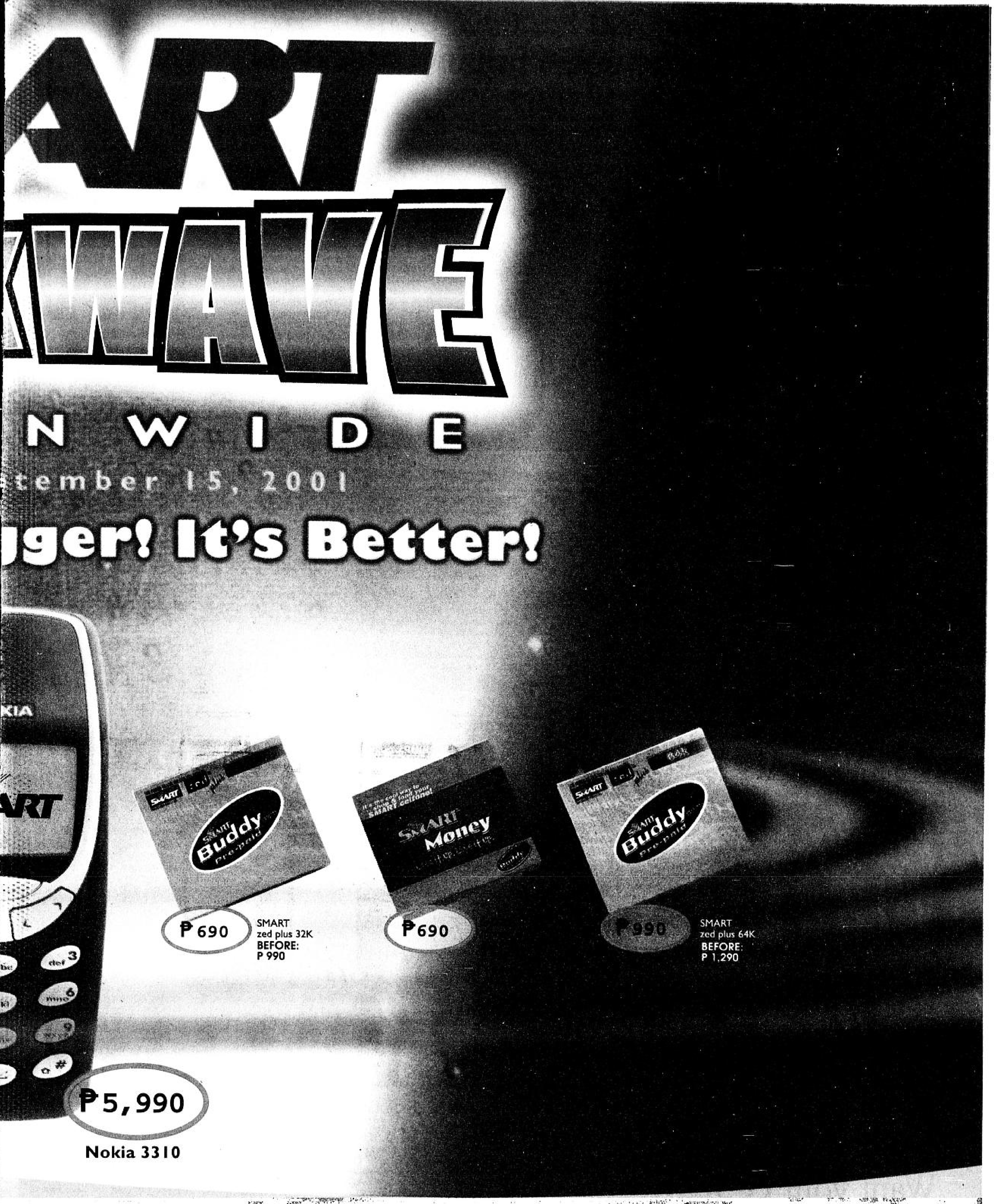
- **ACeS SHOCKV**
  - For post-paid subscribers
    50% off on the first-mont
    of Plans 3000 and 4000. S
    *Terms and conditions apply. (minin
    Subject to pre-termination charges
  - For pre-paid subscribe
    ₱2,000 worth of Call a
- **NEW INDIVI SUBSCRIPTI**

ERICSSON R190 HANDS

POST-PAID

PRE-PAID

- **ALSO INQUIR EASY SWITCH**


ART
KWAVE
N W I D E
tember 15, 2001
ger! It's Better!
KIA
ART
SMART Buddy Pre-paid
₱690
SMART zed plus 32K
BEFORE:
P 990
SMART Money
₱690
SMART Buddy Pre-paid
₱990
SMART zed plus 64K
BEFORE:
P 1,290
₱5,990
Nokia 3310

Explosion

WAVE PROMO

hly service fees
ave up to ₱2,000!
um of 1-yr. subscription)

rs:
nd Text Cards -- FREE!

DUAL
ON PACKAGE

ET PACKAGE

Plan 3000	Plan 4000
₱29,995.00	₱26,995.00
₱35,595.00	

E ABOUT OUR
HING PACKAGES!

VISIT US AT THE FOLLOWING SHOCKWAVE SITES!

METRO MANILA
- SM Megamall
- SM North Edsa (ends Sept. 11)
- Robinsons Galleria (starts Sept. 1)
- Robinsons Place Manila
- The Enterprise Center
- Alabang Town Center

LUZON
- Saver's Mall, Angeles
- Robinsons Place, Imus
- Robinsons Place, Los Baños
- NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan

VISAYAS
- SM City Cebu (starts Sept. 1)
- SM City Iloilo
- Robinsons Mall, Bacolod
- Dynasty Square, Tacloban

MINDANAO
- Victoria Mall, Davao
- Mindpro Mall, Zamboanga
- Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro (starts Sept. 5)

YOU CAN ALSO VISIT US AT THE TSI / MAJOR DEALER OUTLET OR SMART WIRELESS CENTER NEAREST YOU.

GET A CHANCE TO WIN EARTHSHAKING PRIZES AT OUR RAFFLE PROMO!

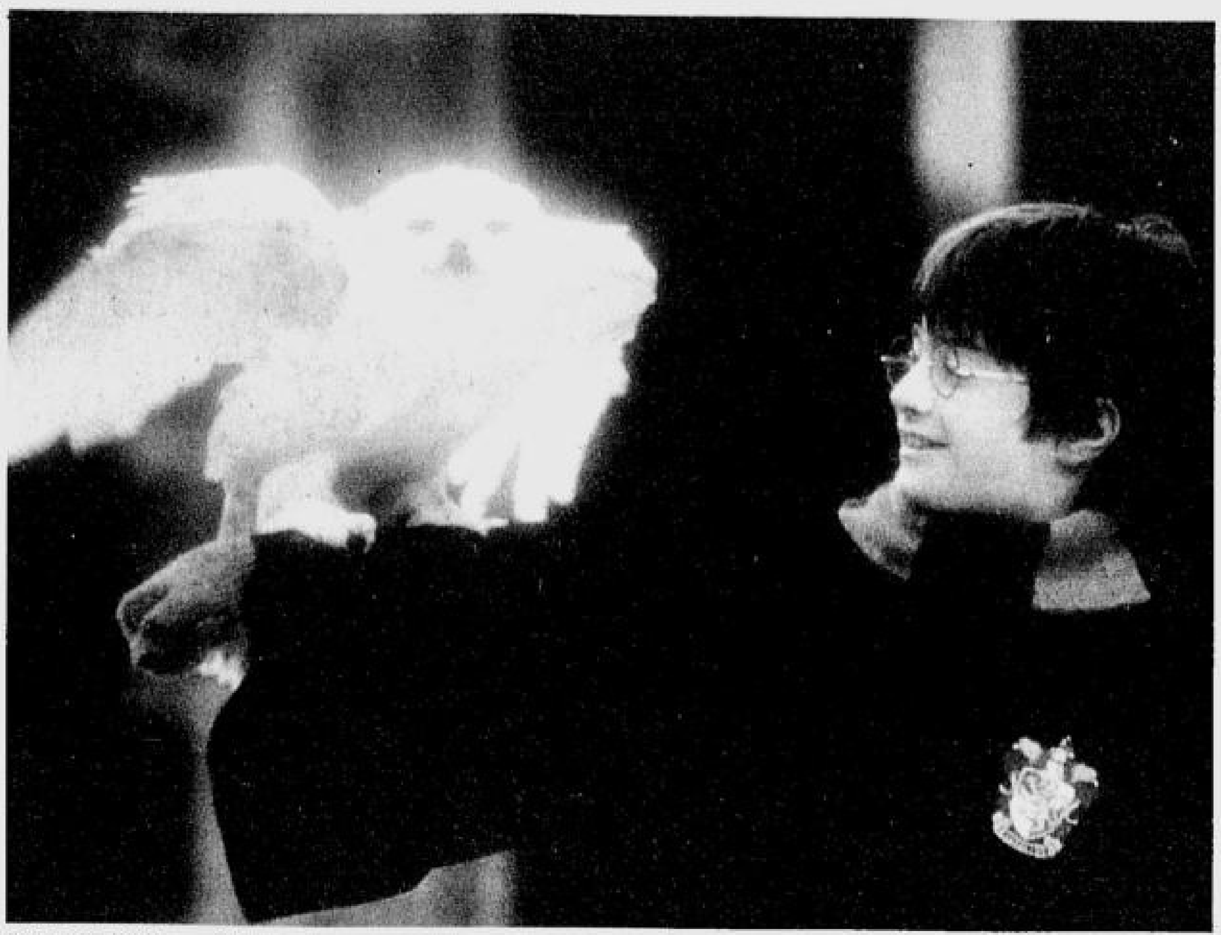
For every swapped Non-SMART SIM or single purchase of any SMART handset or SIM PACK from Aug. 31 - Sept. 15, 2001, you will receive a SHOCKWAVE RAFFLE STUB. Fill out and drop at any Shockwave center by Sept. 15, 2001, 8:00 p.m. for a chance to win celfones and appliances during the draw on Sept. 20, 2001, 10:00 a.m., at the DDB Phils. office, 9/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1333, Series of 2001.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Great hopes for Hollywood's fall include 'Harry' and 'Ali'



"HARRY Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," with Daniel Radcliffe as the lead star. A much-awaited release.

LOS ANGELES—Autumn falls. The leaves turn. And one of Hollywood's more forgettable summers of quality-bereft action fare gives way to the season of style and sophistication.

Instead of tomb raiders, apes and dinosaurs, audiences will be treated to character pieces with elegant titles such as "Hearts in Atlantis," "The Affair of the Necklace" and "The Royal Tenenbaums."

This fall is heavy on literary adaptations with "The Shipping News," "The Time Machine" and "The Musketeer," a new take on "The Three Musketeers."

Martin Scorsese returns to the mean streets, but in 19th century costume-drama style with "Gangs of New York." With "Shallow Hal," the Farrelly brothers class themselves up by casting Gwyneth Paltrow (or Paltrow dumbs herself down; it's probably a little of both) in a movie about a man who sees an obese woman as his ideal mate.

Heavyweight drama

Will Smith segues from action and comedy to heavyweight drama with "Ali," which focuses on the prime fighting years and the personal and political struggles of Muhammad Ali.

Smith bulked up to 100 kg, adding 13.5 kg of muscle. He went through intensive training and had the benefit of frequent set visits by Ali.

"I always felt there was nobody in the world to play Muhammad Ali but me. I just know him. I can't even say why," Smith said.

"It wasn't that big of a stretch for me to say, 'I'm the greatest.' I started in rap music, and that's based on the concept that you're the best. Rappers are no strangers to proclaiming their personal superiority."

Two of the season's biggest releases have their roots in tasteful old Britain. A little ditty called "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" breezes into theaters in November, based on the opening book of J.K. Rowling's fantasy phenomenon.

A week before Christmas comes "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," part one of a film trilogy adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's classic about hobbits and dark lords.

Cruise, Cage

Other big fall releases include the reality-bending drama "Vanilla Sky," Tom Cruise's reunion with "Jerry Maguire" creator Cameron Crowe; "Windtalkers," starring Nicolas Cage in a drama about Navajo code keepers in World War II; Johnny Depp and Heather Graham in the Jack-the-Ripper tale "From Hell;" Steven Soderbergh's casino caper "Ocean's Eleven," featuring George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts; David Lynch's enigmatic Hollywood story "Mulholland Drive;" "Serendipity," a romantic comedy with John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale; and Hilary Swank's palace intrigue, "The Affair of the Necklace."

Also, the Arnold Schwarzenegger revenge thriller "Collateral Damage;" Keanu Reeves as a reluctant baseball coach in "Hardball;" "Black Knight," with Martin Lawrence zapped back to 16th century England; "Novocaine," starring Steve Martin as a dentist lured into a murder scheme; Mark Wahlberg as a tribute-band singer given a shot at fame in "Rock Star;" and "The Accidental Spy," with Jackie Chan as a salesman-turned-agent.

Tolkien fans have craved a "Lord of the Rings" adaptation for decades, but Elijah Wood, who stars as hobbit Frodo Baggins, said the wait was worth it. Today's visual effects resulted in a more realistic rendering of Tolkien's Middle-earth, Wood said. And the epic no longer carries political baggage it picked up 30 or 40 years ago, he said.

"I don't think this could have been done any earlier," Wood said. "In the '60s and '70s, there was a lot of pop culture that referenced 'Lord of the Rings.' It was used in reference to Vietnam and was embraced by the hippie movement. If the film were done back then, you would have had social issues of that time tacked on to it.

"Now we're free of those tie-ins, so it makes for a clearer depiction of Tolkien and his story."

Wood's cast mates include Ian McKellen, Cate Blanchett, Ian Holm, Viggo Mortensen and Liv Tyler. All three films in the trilogy were shot simultaneously in New Zealand, with part two due out late next year and part three scheduled for fall 2003.

'Potter' sequel

Likewise, "Harry Potter" director Chris Columbus hopes to have part two of the series — "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" – in theaters late next year. Shooting begins three days after "Sorcerer's Stone" opens, Columbus said.

Daniel Radcliffe stars as Harry, enrolled at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The cast includes Richard Harris, Maggie Smith, Julie Walters, Robbie Coltrane and John Cleese.

Fans worried that Hollywood might Americanize the story. Columbus, who read "Sorcerer's Stone" at the urging of his nine-year-old daughter, was determined from the start to preserve the story's British flair.

"I saw myself as one of the ultimate fans of this book, and I was there to protect it from anyone who could potentially come in and turn it into an American school with cheerleaders," Columbus said. "It needed to be an entirely British cast. That was just essential to the feeling of the film."

Disney and Pixar Animation, makers of the "Toy Story" movies, will get a jump on "Harry Potter," releasing their computer-animated "Monsters, Inc." in early November.

Featuring the voices of John Goodman and Billy Crystal, the movie centers on a girl who accidentally wanders into the realm of monsters that sneak into children's rooms at night.

"Monsters come out of kid's closets to scare them, but no one ever knew why," said John Lasseter, executive producer of "Monsters, Inc." and director of the "Toy Story" movies. "The reason monsters come out of the closet to scare kids is to capture the screams of kids and refine it to a clean-burning fuel.

"The screams of kids are the fossil fuel of the monster world, and Monsters Inc. is an energy company."

Mariah Carey debut

Pop star Mariah Carey makes her lead-actress debut in "Glitter." The movie about a singer dealing with the pressures of stardom, was delayed from late-summer release after Carey was hospitalized for an emotional breakdown.

"She's said time and time again it's not an autobiographical piece," said "Glitter" director Vondie Curtis Hall. "But obviously, there's parallels of so many people coming up in the music industry, getting that first break, the pain of finally accomplishing your dream, but at what price?"

Russell Crowe, Jim Carrey and Sean Penn all play men facing mental challenges: Crowe is a brilliant economist afflicted by schizophrenia in "A Beautiful Mind," directed by Ron Howard; Carrey stars as a blacklisted Hollywood writer who loses his memory in "The Majestic," from director Frank Darabont; and Penn plays a mentally handicapped man in a custody fight for his daughter in "I Am Sam," co-starring Michelle Pfeiffer.

Drew Barrymore takes a dramatic turn in "Riding in Cars With Boys," about a 1960s teen whose plans are derailed by pregnancy.

"Drew is wonderful in it, and it was a very taxing job for her because she has to play this character from age 15 to 35," said director Penny Marshall.

Others stretching themselves dramatically are Denzel Washington, shedding his nice-guy image to play a flamboyantly corrupt cop in "Training Day"; and John Travolta, who does the opposite, dropping his recent sinister persona to play a heroic divorced dad in the psychological thriller "Domestic Disturbance."

Altman's new turn

Director Robert Altman also takes a new turn, going British with the satiric mystery "Gosford Park," set at a 1930s English manor. The ensemble cast includes Helen Mirren, Kristin Scott Thomas, Emily Watson and Clive Owen.

"The one thing I've never done in terms of genre is a murder mystery. An Agatha Christie 'Ten Little Indians' thing," Altman said. "It's like 'Ten Little Indians' meets 'Rules of the Game'."

On the heels of his comedy "Waking Up In Reno," Billy Bob Thornton stars in three fall films.

Thornton plays a morose barber who turns blackmailer in the Coen brothers' "The Man Who Wasn't There." In the comedy "Bandits," he and Bruce Willis play escaped cons on a bank-robbery spree. And the drama "Monster's Ball" casts Thornton as a death-row executioner who comes to doubt his way of life.

Worried about overexposure, Billy Bob?

"The good thing is I play four very different characters in these movies," Thornton said.

"I think audiences can decide what they like and don't like and won't just go, 'Oh, wow, here he is again'."

Multiple films

Other actors with multiple films before year's end include Robert Redford as a court-martialed general in "The Last Castle" and co starring with Pitt in the adventure "Spy Game"; Anthony Hopkins in the Stephen King adaptation "Hearts in Atlantis" and in "Bad Company," a spy comedy co-starring Chris Rock; Leelee Sobieski in the thrillers "Joy Ride" and "The Glass House" and the drama "My First Mister"; Tim Allen in the comedies "Big Trouble" and "Joe Somebody"; and Kevin Spacey in "K-Pax," as a mental patient who believes he's from a utopian planet, and "The Shipping News," adapted from Annie Proulx's novel.

SMITH. Plays the lead in "Ali."

"The Shipping News" co-stars Julianne Moore, Judi Dench and Blanchett and was directed by Lasse Hallstrom ("The Cider House Rules," "Chocolat").

Spacey, who won Oscars for fast-talking roles in "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty," this time plays a passive newspaperman who returns to his family home in Newfoundland after his wife's death.

"I've played men with great confidence and wit and verbal ability, but this is very, very different. A man who has absolutely no confidence about anything," Spacey said.

"Life just keeps happening to him, and he's forced to respond."

Gene Hackman also has two films. He plays a master thief in David Mamet's "Heist" and the patriarch of a family of brilliant kooks in "The Royal Tenenbaums." The movie co-stars Paltrow, Anjelica Huston and Ben Stiller.

"They're all dysfunctional, all strange, all geniuses," Hackman said. "They're not doing well even though they're all gifted. My character plays a con job to get back together with the family after they've separated."

Stiller also stars in the fashion farce "Zoolander," which he cowrote and directed.

"It's your basic, world's most famous male supermodel gets brainwashed to assassinate the prime minister of Malaysia. It's one of those films," Stiller said. "I was getting offered too many of those, so I figured I better just do one." *AP*

Guts, determination and rock 'n' roll

(From page A24)

About You," the modern retelling of Shakespeare's "the Taming of the Shrew" but "A Knight's Tale" is likely to guarantee his stardom.

Young generation

The film immediately hooks up to the young generation with its fusion of contemporary mood and Middle Age mystique. It depicts tournament jousting as the spectator even of its time, and the knights of course as the sports heroes of legend.

It takes classic rock music 21st century haute couture and dialogue, and blends these seamlessly with their medieval counterparts. But the resulting mishmash though irreverent is surprisingly refreshing. Only a real fuddy-duddy will not approve of it.

Helgeland's populist treats inject freshness to the oft-used "climb every mountain" plot. Instead of coarsening the story-telling, his decision to depart from the orthodox complements it by giving "A Knight's Tale" the subtlety, anticipation and nuance that sets it apart from your average romance-action-adventure.

Ledger's portrayal is also an interesting concoction, with William having both old world charm and rock and roll attitude. He cuts a dashing but very human hero, brash yet sincere, self-effacing and yet intense.

Likeable bloke

His voice is thunder and he delivers his lines as emotively as a guy who's acting for radio. His William is an immediately likeable bloke and is much more so when pitted against the dastardly Count Adhemar (Rufus Sewell), a villain more than anyone's we've encountered in storybooks.

Sewell is a fine actor and is most loathsome when he hisses Adhemar's favorite dressing down remark: "You have been weighed, you have been measured, and you have been found wanting."

Every fairy tale who has a hero and a villain must of course have a love interest, and here I almost wish there were two. First-time film actress Shannyn Sossamon—who was reportedly discovered while tagging along with her deejay-friend at Gwyneth Paltrow's birthday party—easily identifies with a damsel who can rock any knight's world. She plays the noble-born Jocelyn who becomes William's muse.

When Ledger and Sossamon dance to David Bowie's "Golden Years," the scene feels like a prom with the two as king and queen.

Scottish-born actress Laura Fraser is Kate, William's feisty and intriguing lady armorer. Kate could have easily been Jocelyn's rival, but that alas was not developed and she just becomes a member of the wannabe knight's support crew.

The most applauded supporting performance is delivered by Paul Bettany who plays Geoffrey Chaucer; yes, as in one of the three greatest English poets (along with Shakespeare and Milton) and author of "The Canterbury Tales," Chaucer.

According to the film's researchers, there is one brief period in Chaucer's life that remains completely undocumented, and Helgeland conveniently appropriates that period to make him a vital character to the film.

Eloquent publicity

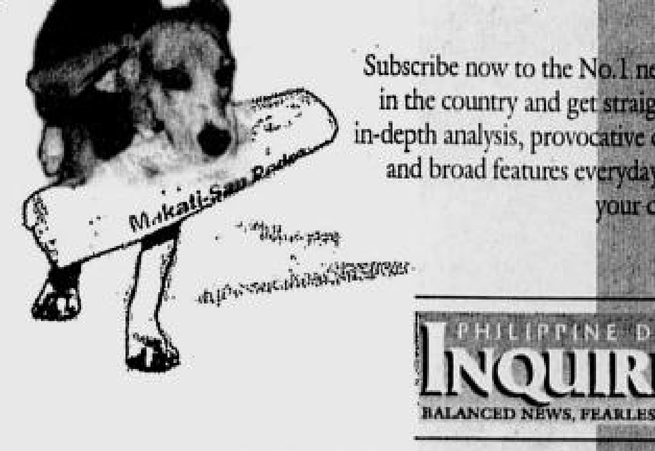
William and his friends first meet the writer walking buck-naked along the countryside. He ingratiates himself to the group by forging William's nobility papers—transforming him into Sir Ulrich von Lichtenstein of Gelderland—and furnishing eloquent publicity to make him everyone's dream knight. Bettany is a natural scene-stealer and is hilarious especially when doling out verbose, larger-than-life introductions for William ("We walk in the garden of his turbulence!).

It may not land on my top three list, but "A Knight's Tale" is certainly entertaining enough to merit watching it a second time. I think I will.

I'm a sucker for "cheers and tears" films, where the hero rises from the ashes like a phoenix and accomplishes in just one screening what usually takes us more than a lifetime's effort—and this hero has a phoenix inscribed in its coat of arms.

Sure it's unreal, but for every hero we see on the screen, there are also dozens of us on the shadows of the theater trying to buck the odds and put happy endings to our own fairy tales. We can relate.

Want your copy delivered?



Subscribe now to the No.1 newspaper in the country and get straight news, in-depth analysis, provocative columns, and broad features everyday right at your doorstep.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

For Metro Manila home delivery,
please call us at 528-01-83 • 528-02-13 • 528-01-86
fax reply coupon at: 528-02-34
or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer c/o Circulation Division,
Ground Floor, Trinity Bldg., #636 Kalaw St., Manila
Yes, I would like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:
Name ________
Address ________
Tel. No. ________
Signature ________

Viva TV premieres two soap operas

VIVA TV will start airing two new soap operas this month on IBC 13.

"Por un Beso" and "Carita de Anghel" are the latest additions to Viva TV's fast-growing lineup of top-rating shows.

The new telenovelas are calculated to bring many hours of romance, laughter, excitement and suspense.

"Por un Beso" is a dramatic romance about love that went wrong. Mariano frames Julio, the husband of his former lover, Blanca, for murder. This sends Julio to jail for many years and causes Blanca's death.

But as fate would have it some years later, Mariano's son, Daniel, falls in love with the poor orphan singer Azucena, who turns out to be the daughter of Blanca and Julio.

The situation brings back the past to Mariano and he swears to do everything he can to separate the young lovers.

Playing the dual role of Blanca and Azucena is Natalia Esperon, the current toast of Latin American TV.

Mariano is played by Enrique Rocha, the enduring actor and star of "Serafin."

Heartthrob Victor Noriega is Daniel and Julio is played by Otto Sirgo.

"Por un Beso" will be seen starting Sept. 10, 9:30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

"Carita de Anghel" brings to Philippine TV one of the sweetest and most talented young stars of soap operas. Five-year-old Daniella Aedo plays the lead as the mischievous Dulce Maria, who was left by her father in a boarding school after her mother died.

All the nuns in school adore the little girl and are saddened by the arrival of her father and his plan to marry the scheming Nicole. But count on Dulce Maria to come up with an idea that will send Nicole packing and that will bring true love to the life of her father.

Also starring in "Carita de Anghel" are Lisette Morales as Sister Cecilia, Miguel de Leon as Luciano Larios, Libertad Lamarque as Mother Superior, Nora Salinas as Aunt Pelucas, Manuel Saval as Padre Gabriel, Marisol Santacruz as Angelica Larios and Ana Patricia Rojo as Nicole.

The soap will air starting Sept. 12, Mondays to Fridays, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

CHILD star Daniella Aedo plays the lead in "Carita de Anghel."

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173858

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	CROCODILE 2
5	A.I.
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	SHREK
8	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161406

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	CROCODILE 2
3	A.I.
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
7	A.I.
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I.
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SHREK
12	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	A.I.
2	CROCODILE 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	A.I.
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	SHREK
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	A.I.
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PLANET OF THE APES.
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	CROCODILE 2
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SHREK
12	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	CROCODILE 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	CROCODILE 2
2	A.I
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	A.I
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	SEX EDUCATION
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
12	PLANET OF THE APES

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	CROCODILE 2
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	SHREK
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	A.I
9	PLANET OF THE APES
10	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820005

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU 2313616

1	A.I
2	SHREK
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	COMMAND & CONQUER
5	IRA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	ANIMAL

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	IRA
2	CLOSED
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	ANIMAL
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	A.I
7	CLOSED
8	COMMAND & CONQUER

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	SHREK
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT 8294975

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	CROCODILE 2

SM DAVAO

1
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
4
5
6

dts DIGITAL SOUND · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	
2	RUSH HOUR 2	
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	
4	CROCODILE 2	

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 4

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	CROCODILE 2	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PLANET OF THE APES (Art Film)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	MOULIN ROUGE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SHREK	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CROCODILE 2	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 15, 16, 21 & 22 - 9PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	A.I. THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	A.I.	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CROCODILE 2	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	CROCODILE 2
2 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHREK
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	A.I.
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A.I.
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 [illegible]	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BUBOT
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	CROCODILE
6	A.I.
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 56

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	A.I.
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8 (SDDS)	A.I.
9 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4 (SDDS)	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	A.I.
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	A.I.
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	RED DIARIES
Lords	RED DIARIES
Jennet	RESERVE

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	A.I.

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1235

3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	A.I.
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX MEDUSA

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CROCODILE 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CATS & DOGS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CROCODILE 2
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (DTS)	A.I.

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY / BEAUTIFUL
5	SEX MEDUSA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	A.I.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SHREK
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	BROTHERHOOD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	HUWAD NA HAYOP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TEENAGE DIARY
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BROTHERHOOD
4 (DTS ES)	RUSH HOUR 2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL
PREMIERE CINEMA THX
NOW SHOWING
HALEY JOEL OSMENT
JUDE LAW
A.I.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail: http://rlcasia.mni.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA 632 9115 16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	A.I.
2	A.I.
3	CROCODILE 2
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	A.I.

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	CROCODILE 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVED FOR PRIVATE EVENT
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	A.I.
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	CROCODILE 2
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	SHREK

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	CROCODILE 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463

1	SHREK
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	VENUS

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/ TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
B	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-2	PLANET OF THE APES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NAKALIMOT SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	EVANGELINE KATORSE
CINEMA-4	OUTRAGE

QUIAMBAO

Miriam pledges to help poor kids

IN THE relatively short time she's stepped into the limelight, beauty queen turned TV host Miriam Quiambao has proven that beneath all the glamor is a person with a generous and charitable heart.

Miriam, who has become a popular TV personality and product endorser, is also a licensed physical therapist.

More than this, she is a passionate humanitarian who is now the official spokesperson of World Vision, a non-government organization that focuses on educating poverty-stricken children here in the country and around the world.

Miriam continues to touch base with her followers as host of the daily programs "Unang Hirit" and "Extra! Extra!" both on GMA 7.

Miriam is under the management of Artistation Inc., which also handles the entertainment careers of today's top artists such as Side A, Pido With Take One, Hans Montenegro, Willie Revillame, Freeverse.

For inquiries, call Artistation at 812-7940.

Dance music DJ in Manila

AFTER Way Out West released its second album, "Intensify," for the international market, renowned international dance music disc jockey Nick Warren is now in Manila for the formal launch of the album under Universal Records Philippines.

Warren's humble beginnings as a DJ started in the late '80s when he was a DJ on the city's underground music scene in Bristol. His creativity in concocting innovative dance music earned him a slot as one of Massive Attack's DJs who toured America. He then became a resident DJ at Cream, a popular dance club in Liverpool.

Warren's worldwide acceptance into the world of dance music has seen him touring the world with his music.

"Intensify," his latest masterpiece with partner Jody Wisternoff, contains a repertoire of forceful, deep and haunting house music which rips through the listeners' senses.

A follow up to their 1997 debut, "The Gift," "Intensify" is geared to surpass Way Out West's achievement.

Some of the notable cuts are "UB Devoid," "Sharkhunt," "Mind Circus" (featuring Trisha Lee Kelshall), "Secret" and "Call Me."

Carrier single of "Intensify" is "The Fall," which used the *a capella* of Coldcut's "Autumn Leaves," for an inviting dance music experience.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Making medical information more accessible to viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL 5 should be congratulated for coming up with some innovative program formats these past weeks. Some of them don't pan out, but others do, like the new show, "Urban Doctor." (9:30 p.m., Tuesdays).

We caught the program last week and found it both informative and entertaining as it attempted to dispense medical advice in a refreshingly upbeat manner.

Instead of doing the traditional staid and antiseptic "behind the desk in my clinic" bit, resident urban doctor **Ed Tolentino** roamed yuppie hangouts and crashed some rave parties in hang-loose clothes—and a backpack.

The result was, he became instantly accessible to viewers, particularly young-adults and younger. The medical information he dispensed wasn't necessarily watered down, but it became more easily comprehensible and interesting.

On the show's first telecast, Tolentino concentrated on the negative health consequences of smoking and drinking. We trust that viewers' eyes were opened by the show to the terrible results of such "social" addictions.

We like the show's breezy, with-it style, and Tolentino's natural but informed projection. The show's success should give similar ideas to programs related to law, architecture and the other professions. You *can* be informative without being boring!

On the debit side, "Urban Doctor" is occasionally too repetitively breezy. There should be times when the show can turn more serious and detailed, with stronger visual support for some of the more difficult points it seeks to make.

Seeing a young doctor roaming around, shooting the breeze and even dancing is fun, but too much of that can eventually make viewers complain. "That's great—but is there anything *else* you want to tell or show us?"

We're confident that the program will soon be able to find the right mix and equipoise between fun and substantial content, as well as to realize the immense visual support that television can give to shed light on less facile medical points.

"Urban Doctor" has had a good start, and we trust that it will continue to refine its combination of style and content, so that viewers can learn more about the importance of staying healthy in an increasingly stressful and polluted world.

'Adventure One'

DON'T miss "Adventure One—National Geographic Explorer" on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 10 p.m. as it presents three special features:

"City of Reptiles"—Each summer, the city of Baroda, India, is practically taken over by thousands of poisonous snakes, crocodiles, monkeys and other unwanted guests from a nearby forest.

"Lost Land of the Andes"—Journey with a team of adventurers and scientists to a lost land high in the Andean mountains. Their mission: to rediscover forgotten cultures, Inca ruins and new species of animals and plants.

"Venice Burning"—In a city built mostly of wood, firefighters have their work cut out for them. Polluted water, tidal changes and the need for extra long hoses make the job of Venice's firemen one of the toughest in the world.

'Tomorrow's World'

LEARN about new inventions on "Tomorrow's World" on the National Geographic Channel every Thursday at 9:30 p.m. On Sept. 13, the features are:

"Leukemia Stem Cells"—a painless way to collect bone marrow cells for leaukemia patients who need a transplant.

Swarming Robots"—what happens when a group of robots takes on some humans.

"Glucose Monitor"—giving people with diabetes access to 'round-the-clock information on blood sugar levels.

"Computer Cop"—on new technology enabling police to catch drivers risking the lives of others on the road.

"Sailing Chair"—an innovative, lightweight chair that gives the disabled a new opportunity to participate in watersports.

'A KNIGHT'S TALE'

Guts, determination and rock 'n' roll

REVIEW

LEDGER. His portrayal of a knight is an interesting concoction.

NO matter how old you get, there will always be that child inside you yearning to hear a fairy tale. Whether it is read from a book or recounted animatedly from memory by your folks, a fairy tale invites you into a world where you can freely lose yourself, through a story you want to be part of, and through characters you want to be friends with.

Once every so often, we get to see a fairy tale told inside a theater as well, and even a movie reviewer has no recourse but to put down his pen and pad, and just . . . well . . . have fun.

Such is the case with "A Knight's Tale." You have to get off your high horse and go along with the film in order to enjoy it; believe even for a while that changing one's destiny can be as romantic as it is uncomplicated, that a peasant can realize his dream of becoming a knight in shining armor, and that the resounding beat of Queen's "We Will Rock You" can be sung at a 14th century jousting tournament in England.

The film makes no pretensions about what it is. It is Rocky with a medieval spin, the classic underdog theme set in the age of chivalry, where ironically, one's fate is predetermined by his or her social class and transcending it is basically unheard of.

"A Knight's Tale" defiantly drives home its lesson: with a little bit of guts and determination, and a little bit of rock and roll, anything can happen.

It is a lesson that echoes in the life of its writer and director Brian Helgeland, who before winning an Oscar for writing the "L.A. Confidential" screenplay used to make a living as a fisherman according to the film's production notes.

Jousting circuits

"A Knight's Tale is a tribute to anyone who has accomplished something very far-fetched," he says.

After a short introduction, the film cuts to the chase as we meet its hero William Thatcher (Heath Ledger), the peasant-squire of a knight who's seen better days in the jousting circuits of Europe. When his master, Sir Ector (Nick Brimble) dies in the middle of a tournament, William assumes the knight's identity against the counsel of his friends and fellow squires, Roland (Mark Addy of "The Full Monty") and Wat (Alan Tudyk), who know only too well that only those of noble birth can compete in jousting tournaments.

But William has his own "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul" philosophy, and he dons Sir Ector's armor, takes up his lance and mounts his steed not only to win the tournament and provide food for their starving stomachs, but also to prove that he has the heart and skill to be a true knight regardless of his peasant lineage.

"What were nobles before they became nobles anyway?," he asks his friends.

His father told him once: "If a man believes enough, a man can do anything. A man can change his stars." And so he sets off to do it.

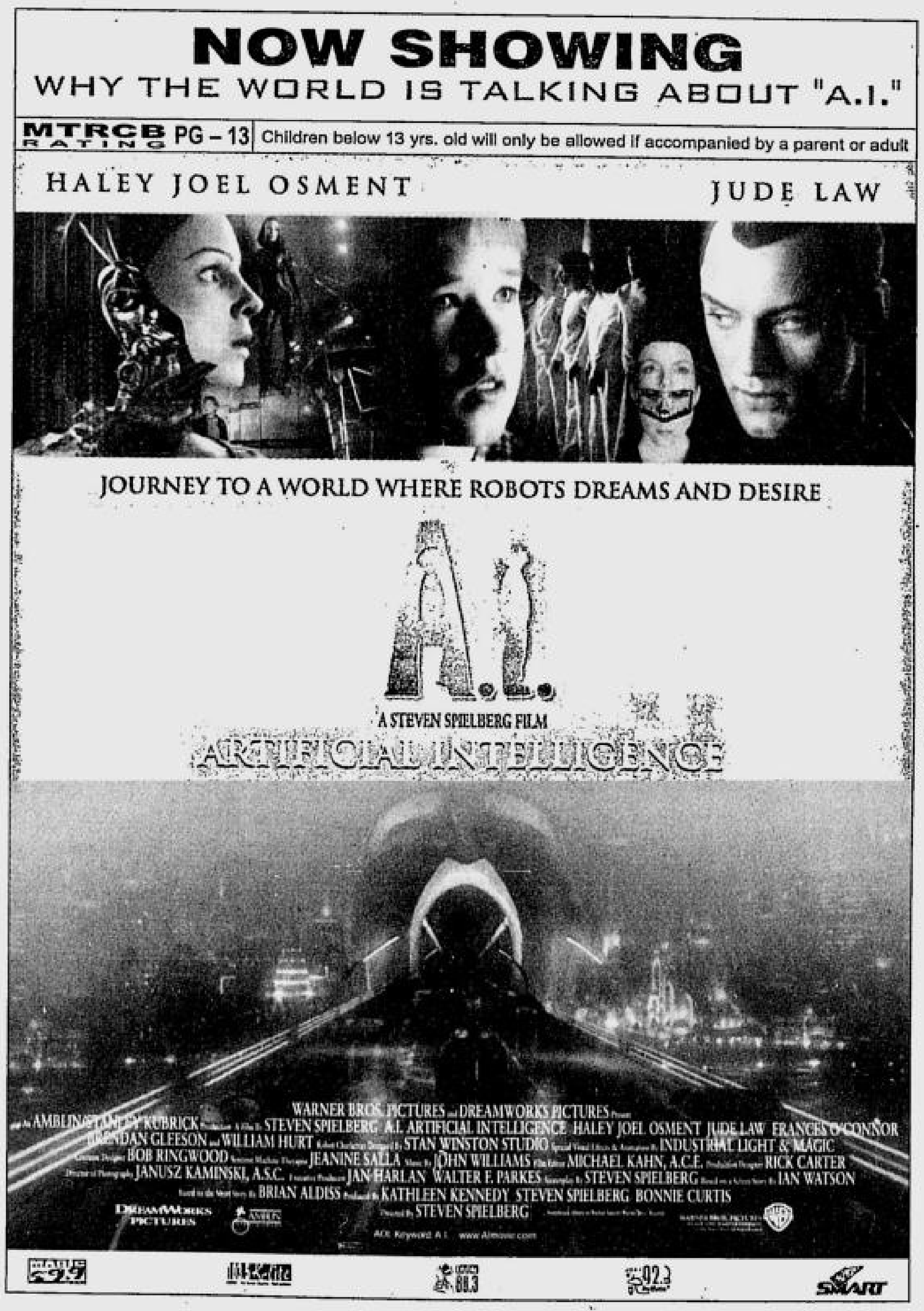
Ledger picks the right film to stake his claim as Hollywood's next great leading man. He showed a lot of promise as Mel Gibson's son in "The Patriot" and earlier, as Julila Stile's partner in "10 Things I Hate

GUTS/ A22

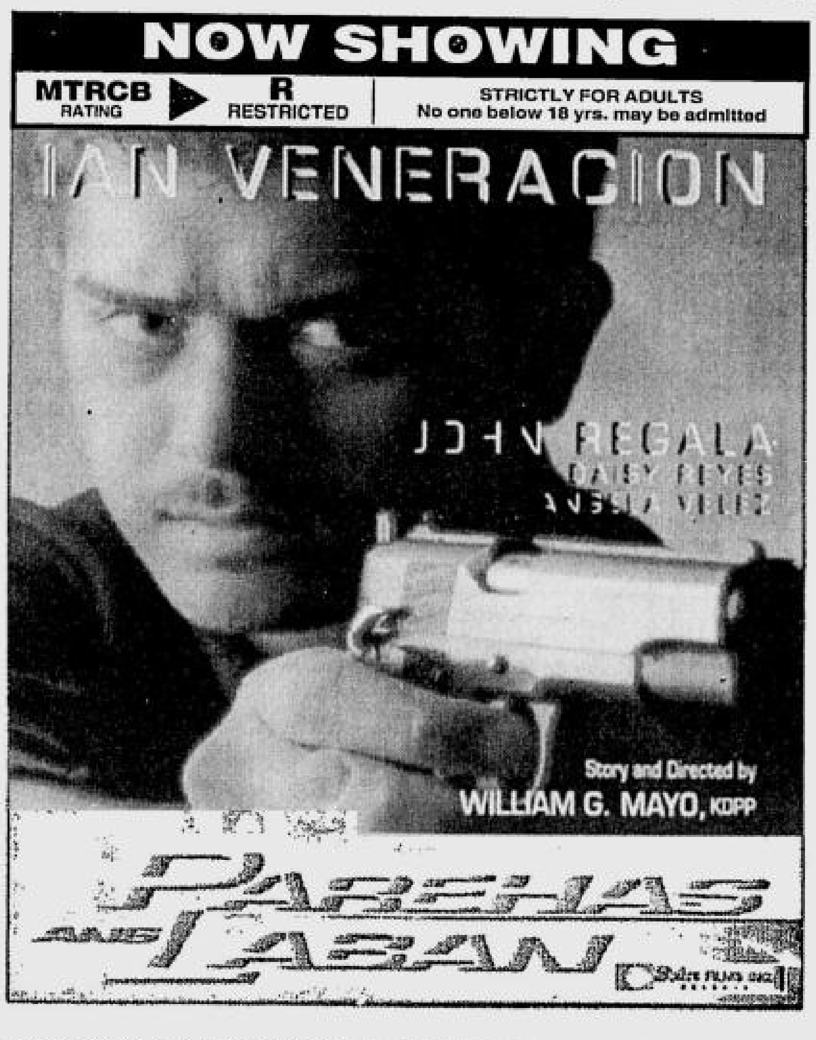
POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:20	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

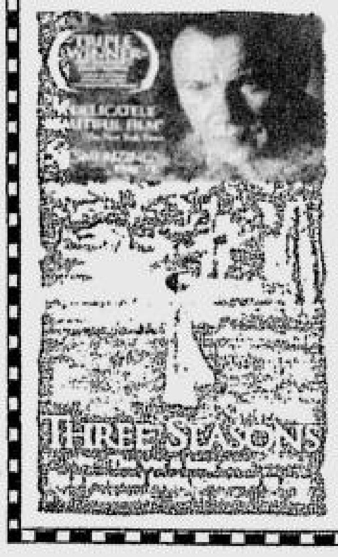
Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



NOW SHOWING
WHY THE WORLD IS TALKING ABOUT "A.I."
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
HALEY JOEL OSMENT JUDE LAW
JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHERE ROBOTS DREAMS AND DESIRE
A.I.
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES and DREAMWORKS PICTURES Present
an AMBLIN/STANLEY KUBRICK Production A Film By STEVEN SPIELBERG A.I. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HALEY JOEL OSMENT JUDE LAW FRANCES O'CONNOR BRENDAN GLEESON and WILLIAM HURT STAN WINSTON STUDIO INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC BOB RINGWOOD JEANINE SALLA JOHN WILLIAMS MICHAEL KAHN, A.C.E. RICK CARTER JANUSZ KAMINSKI, A.S.C. JAN HARLAN WALTER F. PARKES STEVEN SPIELBERG IAN WATSON BRIAN ALDISS KATHLEEN KENNEDY STEVEN SPIELBERG BONNIE CURTIS STEVEN SPIELBERG
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
SMART



NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
IAN VENERACION
JOHN REGALA
DAISY REYES
Story and Directed by WILLIAM G. MAYO, KDPP
PAREHAS ANG LABAN



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
COMING SOON!
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
TRIPLE WINNER!
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
Audience Award: Dramatic
Cinematography Award: Dramatic & Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic
THREE SEASONS
Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Ai Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

your ticket to cool prizes is just a text away.
Hello Ayala Malls

At the Ayala Malls,
you get the most out of texting.
Text HELLO AYALA MALLS
& send to 2333 or 211
Get a chance to win Ayala Cinema movie passes, Timezone Powercards & Gift Certificates
from Aug. 8 to Sept. 14, 2001!
*See leaflets for details. Valid in GMA only.
* 2333 for Globe & 211 for Smart/Talk 'N Text
Brought to you by:
Globe SMART
AYALA CINEMAS
Per DTI NCR Permit No 2318 Series of 2001

zed
Will you and your blind date end up as a blind item?
Find out with zed Flames on your cell phone.
Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per destiny. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
To find out your destiny:
FLAMES FRANK SHARON
288
The destiny for Frank & Sharon is 3+3+6 which is Sweethearts.
1 Type in FLAMES <NAME1> <NAME2>
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive your destiny.

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

ALL NEW CIVIC
IT'S BIG. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
CAR OF THE YEAR JAPAN 2000-2001
Japan Car of the Year Award
www.hondaphil.com HONDA

Inflation slows to 6.3%

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate slowed down to 6.3 percent in August from 6.8 percent in July as prices of food, basic utility and services stabilized due to favorable weather conditions and the strengthening of the peso during the month.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the lower-than-expected August inflation could lead to lower interest rates, though not necessarily immediately. The policy-making Monetary Board is scheduled to meet today and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the impact of the inflation number would be up for discussion.

The rate stood was better than the 6.7 to 6.8 percent range expected by government economic managers.

In a statement, the National Statistics Office said the lower inflation was driven by the slow 4.4-percent annual increase in the prices of food, beverages and tobacco, which dominate the consumer prices basket. Last July's figure was 5.2 percent. The slowdown in the indices for fuel, light and water and services to 11.1 percent and 11.4 percent from 12.9 percent and 12.1 percent, respectively, helped in achieving a lower-than-expected inflation figure in August.

The rate for housing and repairs went up to 7.4 percent from 7.2 percent while the rates for clothing and miscellaneous items moved at their respective July rates of 4.1 percent and 4.3 percent.

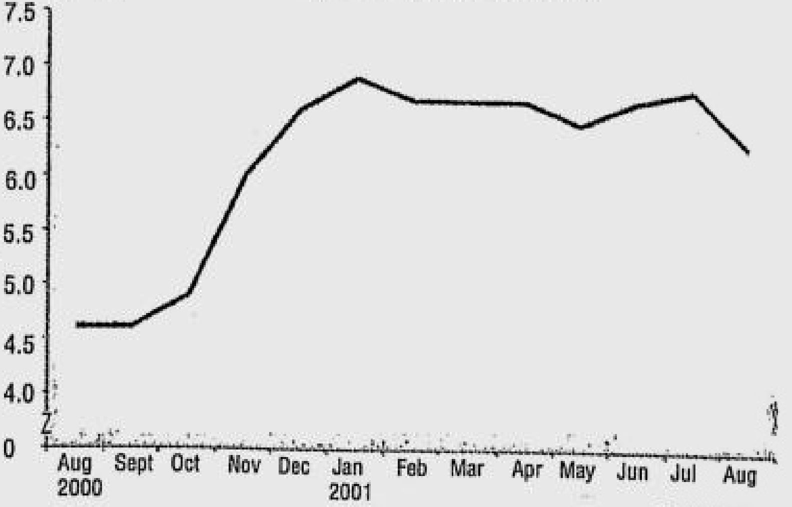
The inflation rate for food, alone, slid to 4.2 percent in August from 5.0 percent in July. Except for dairy products, all the other food groups, including the country's main staple rice, softened as some supply bottlenecks brought about by previous typhoons fizzled out.

The good weather conditions paved the way for a bumper harvest of corn, fruits, vegetables and fish.

Equitable PCI Bank president Deogracias Vistan said the lower inflation rate for August, combined with the relative stability of the peso, could lead to the softening of

INFLATION/ B3

Inflation Rates
(August 2000 to August 2001, in percent)

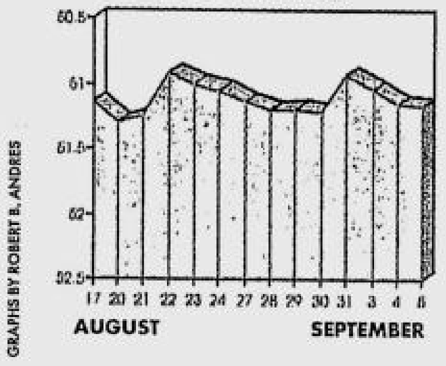


SOURCE: NSO

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

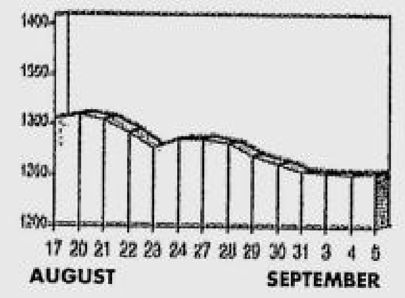
P 51.17 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 5, 2001

¥ 119.74 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 5, 2001

GOLD:$271.60/272.10
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 5, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares up

SHARES closed slightly higher yesterday, with steady buying on bargain blue chips keeping the main index from sinking to a three-year low, which it hit at one-point in the session, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended 1.75 points, or 0.1 percent, higher at 1254.33 after touching shortly before the close 1247.55, its lowest since October 1998. It closed 1.03 points lower to 1252.58 Tuesday.

The broader All Shares Index declined 3.37 points to 750.73 after closing 2.85 points lower Tuesday, underscoring still generally weak investor sentiment for the market.

Losers swamped gainers 52 to 19, with 38 issues unchanged. *AP*

Neda OKs P3.4B worth of projects

THE NATIONAL Economic Development Authority has approved around P3.4 billion worth of new projects aimed at improving the country's position in the information and communications technology and maritime markets, while boosting employment opportunities in the countryside.

In a statement yesterday, the Neda said its board chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo approved a prime ICT project, the P1.08-billion University of the Philippines Information Technology Training Center.

The bulk of the project cost will go to the construction of a new building with a total floor area of 6,800 square meters, a 600-bed dormitory, acquisition of equipment and upgrading, as well as maintenance.

The UP IT training center will be financed through the Japanese government's General Grant Aid Program (GGAP).

The second project is the P1.04-billion Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management program, which intends to boost efforts in reducing poverty through community institutions and participatory development, community investment fund, natural resource management, support services, and project management.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad) will finance 65 percent of the project cost while the Department of Agrarian Reform, the local government units and the target beneficiaries will contribute 18 percent, 10 percent and 6 percent of the required funds, respectively.

Indonesia
London
Singap
New York
Vietnam
Malaysia
Philippines
We cover a lot of ground for you.
Alaminos
Balanga
Blumentritt
Baclaran
Divisoria
Cubao
Ortigas
Makati
Bacolod
Cagayan De Oro
Davao

Maybank continues to bring the strength of Malaysia's largest bank and one of Asia's top 20 well within your reach.

Our extensive network of over 50 branches in the Philippines – 24 in Metro Manila and 34 in key provinces – puts banking convenience on the map.

Across the globe, our 500 branches and offices in over 13 countries connect you to a world of banking products and services. And with the Maybank Inter Country ATM Card, you can access your account through over 800 ATMs in the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

Because we think the world of you, you can be assured that we'd take care of your banking needs wherever you may be. For inquiries on Maybank's branches, products and services, call **521-7451.**

Metro Manila Branches
A. Mabini Branch, Malate, Manila • Arranque Branch, Sta. Cruz, Manila • Baclaran Branch, Parañaque City • Binondo Branch, Binondo, Manila • Blumentritt Branch, Blumentritt, Manila • Camp Aguinaldo Branch, Quezon City • Cartimar Branch, Pasay City • Cubao Branch, Quezon City • Divisoria Branch, Binondo, Manila • Legarda Branch, Manila • Legaspi Tower Center, Roxas Blvd., Manila • Libertad Branch, Pasay City • Makati Branch, Makati City • Malabon Branch, Malabon City • Ortigas Branch, Pasig City • Paco Branch, Paco, Manila • Parañaque Branch, La Huerta Ave., Parañaque City • Quezon Blvd. Branch, Sampaloc, Manila • San Juan Branch, San Juan, Metro Manila • Sangandaan Branch, Caloocan City • Tondo Branch, Tondo, Manila • Trabajo Branch, Sampaloc, Manila • U.P. Campus Branch, Diliman, Q.C. • Villamor Branch, Pasay City

Provincial Branches
Alaminos Branch, Alaminos, Pangasinan • Bacolod Branch, Bacolod City • Bago Branch, Poblacion, Bago City • Balanga Branch, Balanga, Bataan • Balayan Branch, Balayan, Batangas • Baliuag Branch, Baliuag, Bulacan • Biñan Branch, Biñan, Laguna • Binalbagan Branch, Negros Occidental • Cagayan De Oro Branch, Cagayan De Oro City • Calamba Branch, Calamba, Laguna • Candelaria Branch, Candelaria, Quezon • Cavite Branch, P. Burgos St., Cavite • Cebu Branch, Jones Ave., Cebu City • Dagupan Branch, Dagupan City, Pangasinan • Davao Branch, Magallanes St., Davao City • Delgado Branch, Iloilo City • Dumaguete Branch, Sta. Catalina St., Dumaguete • Guagua Branch, Guagua, Pampanga • Gumaca Branch, Gumaca, Quezon • Hagonoy Branch, Hagonoy, Bulacan • Hilado Branch, Capitol Shopping Center, Bacolod City • Iloilo Branch, J.M. Basa St., Iloilo City • Laoag Branch, Laoag City • Lucena Branch, Lucena City • Meycauayan Branch, Meycauayan, Bulacan • Naga Branch, Naga City • Olongapo Branch, Rizal Ave., Olongapo City • Ormoc Branch, Ormoc City • Roxas Branch, Roxas City • San Fernando Branch, San Fernando, Pampanga • Sta. Rosa Branch, Sta. Rosa Laguna • Tuguegarao Branch, Tuguegarao, Cagayan • Urdaneta Branch, Urdaneta, Pangasinan • Vigan Branch, Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Maybank
Best Bank in Malaysia
Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2001

MEGALINK Member PDIC. Deposits insured up to P100,000

NEW BLUEPRINT

Economy seen growing 5%

By Clarissa S. Batino

RIDING high on a stronger-than-expected economic performance in the first six months of the year, the Macapagal administration's economic team held its first briefing with local investors yesterday where it dished out rosy forecasts for the domestic economy.

The briefing was conducted by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

They recognized the impact of the country's worsening export position, but they maintained that export receipts this year would be flat and might even grow by a modest one percent.

Presented in President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first economic blueprint:

- The country's dollar reserves will fall to $13.4 billion this year from an original target of $14 billion and last year's $15.01 billion.
- The deficit in the country's balance of payments—a record of the country's transactions with the rest of the world—is seen deteriorating to $1.9 billion from the central bank's original target of $1.1 billion.

"These numbers were based on a sensitivity analysis and talking points such as: What if exports continue to decline and we don't do anything about it?" the Bangko Sentral's Buenaventura said.

The Philippine economy should grow at an average of around 5 percent over the next three years, said Canlas, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Growth under the ambitious "Philippine Economic Plan for Growth and Equity" will be powered by the key services, industrial and agricultural sectors, Canlas said.

The plan is the core of a medium-term Philippine development plan for the 2001-2004 period finalized at present.

Canlas said that the Philippine Economic Plan was built on the progress made in the six months since Arroyo stormed to power in January, during which the economy grew at an annual rate of 3.3 percent.

Arroyo was installed by a military-led popular uprising that toppled former president Joseph Estrada, now under detention, while facing massive corruption charges.

The blueprint is centered on financial discipline, good governance, market-oriented reforms and poverty eradication.

"Underpinning the plan's framework is a recognition that a stable macroeconomic environment must be created in order to stimulate investment and sustain growth," Canlas said.

He said the government would deliver a well-coordinated set of fiscal and monetary policies that support a sound fiscal and debt position, low rates of inflation and a healthy external balance.

The plan envisaged annual average gross domestic product growth of 4.7 to 5.2 percent for the 2001-2004 period from 3.6 percent during the 1993 to 2000 period.

The plan calls for an inflation rate at 5 to 6 percent over the planning period and aims to reduce the fiscal deficit from P145 billion in 2001 and achieve a balanced budget by 2006 largely through tax reforms.

"Results in our deficit reduction program in the first half are encouraging, and we are on target to meet our tax revenue goal of P499 billion, an 8.4-increase from 2000," the finance department's Camacho said.

He said that under the plan, the government would step up infrastructure development to ensure faster and more affordable access to information and communication technology resources crucial for a knowledge economy.

CANLAS

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government planned to introduce a program requiring all public sector entities to meet defined savings targets.

"We are maintaining fiscal discipline while keeping our commitment to protection for the disadvantaged," she said.

Aside from its emphasis on economic transparency and free enterprise, the plan calls on the private sector to be the driving force of the economy, especially in stemming double-digit unemployment rates and beefing up competitiveness of industries.

"Incentives will be granted to those sectors which can drive agricultural growth, regional development and employment generation," the trade department's Roxas said.

Officials also stressed that the government was determined to wipe out the threat posed by kidnap gangs led by the Muslim Abu Sayyaf group in the South which have scared off foreign investors.

"As the government works to generate growth and eliminate poverty within the decade, it will restore the confidence of both the international community and its own people in the future of the Philippines," Canlas, the government's chief economist, said.

With a report from AFP

Alcatel, Digitel sign $200-M network deal

By Abigail L. Ho

FRENCH telecommunications equipment provider Alcatel SA signed yesterday a $200-million turnkey mobile network contract with Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

"It has been a long and thorough process, but we finally found a system that will meet Digitel's objective of entering the wireless business on a very competitive and cutting edge offer," Digitel corporate planning and strategies head Brian Go said.

Alcatel will provide Digitel, a unit of the Gokongwei family's JG Summit Holdings Inc., with equipment that will enable Digitel to offer general packet radio services and mobile Internet even on its first day of operations.

Apart from providing basic services like "text messaging," this network will also allow Digitel to provide special rates, speed dialing and wireless application protocol, or WAP.

The network will enable Digitel to offer broadband Internet and e-commerce services.

Alcatel's contract with Digitel covers everything from network planning and design to implementation, site acquisition, negotiation of permits, installation and integration of the GSM (global system for mobile communication)/GPRS network, and network testing and commissioning.

Alcatel will make available to Digitel its "Evolium" solution consisting of base stations and base station controllers, mobile switching centers, home location registers, an intelligent network platform for value-added services, and a GPRS core network infrastructure.

Evolium can support GSM, high-speed data, GPRS, enhanced data rates for global evolution and universal mobile telecommunications system for 3G technologies.

For high-capacity traffic, the network will use Alcatel's microwave radio systems and its "Optinex" family of carrier-class transmission solutions, both managed by a unified network management platform.

This platform will allow Digitel to connect both its mobile and fixed subscribers using the GSM technology.

The network can support up to 500,000 subscribers who will be able to surf the Internet and conduct wireless data transactions at speeds of up to 115 Kbps.

"The grade of service will be similar to those that Alcatel supplies to the European systems, which are among the best in the world-leading GSM industry standard today," Alcatel Philippines vice president for key account management Cris Carreon said.

Digitel is set to roll out its cellular service by the first quarter of next year.

No insider trading, says RFM, Cosmos

RFM Corp. has doused cold water on allegations by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco that it engaged in insider trading and stock market manipulation to jack up the share prices of its bottling unit, Cosmos Bottling Corp.

In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, RFM executive vice president Felicisimo Nacino Jr. said RFM made no less than 25 disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange and to the media regarding the planned sale of its shares in Cosmos to San Miguel Corp. over the last three months alone.

"There is no insider trading or any form of stock market manipulation whatsoever on Cosmos or RFM shares," Nacino assured SEC Chair Lilia Bautista. "It is simply not possible when the ongoing discussions on the sale of Cosmos is one of the most widely publicized and fully disclosed deals in the market."

Nacino was reacting to an Aug. 28 letter sent by Syjuco to the stock exchange alleging that the Concepcion family were buying RFM and Cosmos shares to prevent their share prices from going down.

He said a closer look at the price movements of Cosmos and RFM shares in the last three months would show that these movements were purely "market-driven."

"There was a gradual up-trend in prices over the last few months as news of the Cosmos sale was reported to the market," Nacino stressed. "(However) More recently, said prices have begun to dip, primarily due to the efforts of Representative Syjuco to publicize his court case and the TRO (temporary restraining order) he secured against Cosmos."

Nacino also dismissed as exaggerated Syjuco's claim that share prices of Cosmos and RFM stocks had gone into a "free fall."

"Majority of the investing public have discounted the credibility of the Syjuco case and still look forward to the tender offer on Cosmos shares if and when the deal with SMC goes through," he said.

Nacino asked the SEC to protect investors and legitimately listed Filipino companies from what he termed as "clear examples of harassment" from individuals like Syjuco.

"Thousands of small shareholders could get hurt if Rep. Syjuco is allowed to continue spreading false and misleading claims (against RFM and Cosmos)," he said.

Equitable PCI Bank moves closer to settling ₱30-B debt

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S fourth largest lender, Equitable PCI Bank Inc., paid last week some P1 billion to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, raising to P17 billion the debts it settled out of a P30-billion emergency loan it got last year.

"Of the P30 billion, they (Equitable PCI) had already paid P17 billion after they paid another P1billion last week," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

Equitable PCI Bank has promised to settle the entire amount by year's end.

Buenaventura said the central bank was flexible and would not mind should the bank fail to meet its self-imposed deadline. Some had said it would take until the first quarter of next year before Equitable PCI Bank could settle its debts.

"As long as the effort to pay is there, we would not mind if they would move the schedule a bit," he said.

Equitable PCI Bank secured last year a P30-billion emergency loan from the central bank to cover heavy withdrawals triggered by its involvement in then President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

The bank provided key witnesses who testified that Estrada used the name "Jose Velarde" in extending a loan to one of his political supporters. This alias appeared in documents that showed ownership of several mansions that the former president allegedly purchased using payoffs he got from big-time operators of illegal gambling.

Formerly the country's third largest, Equitable PCI Bank has dropped to fourth in terms of assets. The bank's assets was valued at P236.25 billion as of the second quarter of the year, down 4.5 percent from the previous quarter and 3.1 percent from a year earlier.

The bank's deposits also slipped to P132.58 billion in the second quarter from P165.8 billion in the second quarter last year.

Buenaventura, who used to head Philippine Commercial International Bank before it merged with Equitable Banking Corp. to form Equitable PCI Bank, said what Equitable PCI Bank lost were "cheap deposits" that entailed only about 4 percent in interest payments.

BSP said the emergency loan to Equitable PCI carried an interest rate of 91-day treasury bill rate plus three percentage points.

MWSS to borrow ₱1B to pay Maynilad debts

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks Sewerage System is planning to borrow some P1 billion from commercial and government-run banks to cover for Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s debts, according to a ranking MWSS official.

The MWSS has received proposals from the Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Equitable PCI Bank Inc. and Citibank NA, the official told reporters.

The MWSS is borrowing money to pay for debts that Maynilad has refused to pay unless it is allowed to raise its rates by at least P4.75 per cubic meter.

Maynilad has refused to pay concession fees to the MWSS, citing "forces" beyond its control.

The company, a unit of the Lopez family's Benpres Holdings Corp., complained earlier that the peso's steep depreciation jacked up the mostly dollar-denominated debts it assumed from the MWSS.

Maynilad said these debts had grown to $800 million. Without an increase in its basic rates, the company said it had become difficult for it to pay its debts and finance its operations.

Maynilad applied for an increase in its rates to recover P2.7 billion worth of foreign exchange-related losses.

The MWSS earlier attempted to use Maynilad's $200-million performance bond to pay Maynilad's debts but was prevented by a lower court from doing so.

DISCLOSURES

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. has denied reports that its management is asking the Court of Appeals to reverse an en banc decision by the Securities and Exchange Commission upholding its duly approved rehabilitation plan.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved **Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc.'s** decision to reduce the number of its directors from 11 to nine.

* * *

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. has clarified that its plans to set up new hotels and enter into management tie-ups are still preliminary in nature.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will increase its capitalization by up to P2 billion through an initial stock rights offering of P1.67 billion at a par value of P10 per share. The bank will also increase its capital stock from P8 billion to P9 billion.

* * *

THE **PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.** has announced the resignation of Teodoro Locsin Jr. and Vitaliano Nañagas II as directors of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	58	58	569,300
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	18,330
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	28	28	33,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	207	209	207	207	35,810
Prudential Bank	420	420	420	420	2,070
Phil. Bank of Comm.	100	100	100	100	50
Philippine National Bank	53	53	53	53	72,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.5	36,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1460	1460	1460	160
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1145	1140	1145	1,150
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31	31	7,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	640	640	30
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	1,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	15,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	505	500	505	89,450
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	4,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	31.5	31	31	11,100
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	516,100
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	3,922,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	130,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.94	11,099,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	80,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.145	0.145	260,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.14	268,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	36,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	217,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	141,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	26,800
Pure Foods Corp. A	75	75	75	75	200
RFM Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.18	2.18	559,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	68,500
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55	54.5	55	318,200
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	123,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5	5	5	5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	479,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	98,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.84	280,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	228,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	130,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	8,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,248,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	350,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.135	0.135	60,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	1,900,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29	29	29	41,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,250,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	25,200
Ipeople Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.78	120,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	46,000
Medco Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	940,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.3	0.3	6,420,000
Music Corp.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.1	26,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	390,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	690,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	273,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.78	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	5,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	90,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	720,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	299,200
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	665	665	665	665	400
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	8,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.0095	0.01	71,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.7	9,952,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	6,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.88	856,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	610,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	4,003,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	310,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.039	69,900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	14,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.18	220,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	770,770	60,551,790.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	352,181,780	157,132,335.00
PRO	22,731,000	74,643,320.00
Mining	71,303,000	3,140,900.00
OIL	23,540,000	136,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	470,531,550	295,620,245.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	512.07	DOWN 1.81
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,768.07	DOWN 2.26
PRO	486.30	UP 3.53
Mining	1,184.51	DOWN 10.09
OIL	1.43	DOWN 0.05
All Shares Index	750.73	DOWN 3.37
Composite	1,254.33	UP 1.75

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 52; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 1,527

CURRENCIES

Sept. 5, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.125492	1.000000	51.0780
Japan	Yen	0.009442	0.008389	0.4285
United Kingdom	Pound	1.625211	1.444000	73.7566
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142048	0.126210	6.4466
Switzerland	Franc	0.660966	0.587268	29.9965
Canada	Dollar	0.721932	0.641437	32.7633
Singapore	Dollar	0.644612	0.572738	29.2543
Australia	Dollar	0.586714	0.521295	26.6267
Bahrain	Dinar	2.996805	2.662661	136.0034
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300147	0.266681	13.6215
Brunei	Dollar	0.644981	0.573066	29.2711
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000126	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025463	0.022624	1.1556
UAE	Dirham	0.306506	0.272331	13.9101
Korea	Won	0.000886	0.000787	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.888500	45.3828
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454283	23.2039
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135451	6.9186
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.403184	20.5938
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064570	3.2981
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022025	1.1250
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000459	0.0234
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149435	7.6328
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004432	0.2264
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00534	0.2728
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022025	1.1250
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.128162	57.6243

'Win-win' solution on cement issue sought

GOVERNMENT officials, lawmakers and businessmen are pushing for a win-win solution to the simmering cement import controversy to ensure that the industry and its workers, and the consumers will not be unduly hurt.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the Department of Trade and Industry had sought an extension of up to two weeks before deciding on whether to impose a provisional duty on cement imports because he wanted to come up with a ruling that would be fair to all parties concerned.

Local manufacturers want a stop to imports because these were driving them out of business. Cement importers claim that they are merely providing competition. Consumers, meanwhile, could not care less where their cement comes from as long as they become more affordable. "It is hard to balance all these interests," Roxas said.

Manila Rep. Harry Angping, chair of the House committee on trade and industry, said: "I would naturally like to see cement prices go down without causing local cement manufacturers to close down the operations, shoo investors away and send cement workers to the streets." The House committee is currently investigating the cement industry for allegedly operating as cartel.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said that while its members support the law seeking redress under the Safeguard Measures law, any relief granted should balance the interest of both producers and consumers.

The issue on cement imports has so deeply polarized the cement industry and the consumers that the debate has centered on whether the government should move to keep jobs or keep prices low.

In a statement, the Philippine Cement Manufacturing Corp. quoted Rep. Angping as saying that the House committee on trade and industry has yet to reach a decision or a consensus on the cement issue.

Philcemcor spokesperson Susan D. Villanueva, in the same statement, refuted Rep. Jose Maria Salceda's claim that the cement industry enjoyed P1 billion in operating profits as of last year.

RP, Japan sign $3-B currency swap deal

JAPAN has signed a $3-billion currency swap agreement with the Philippines and extended $21.6 million in grant aid to Manila, the Philippine government said yesterday.

Under the bilateral swap accord signed last week, the Bank of Japan will provide a maximum disbursement of $3 billion at 90-day maturity for each swap, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a statement.

The agreement forms part of Tokyo's arrangements with China, South Korea and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

It provides for short-term financial assistance in the form of swaps in US dollars with the domestic currency of a country that is in need of balance of payments support or short-term liquidity support.

The Philippine government announced the swap accord ahead of Arroyo's first visit to Tokyo next week since taking office in January.

The Philippine central bank and the Japanese finance ministry have agreed to include the bilateral swap arrangement in the talks between Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during her September 12-16 visit, Tiglao added.

Aside from the swap agreement, Tokyo also extended 2.7 billion yen ($21.6 million) in grants to mitigate the Philippines' economic difficulties, Tiglao said.

It includes a commodity grant and support for the Manila government's agrarian reform program.

Japan has disbursed a record 65.8 billion yen in development aid to the Philippines for fiscal 2000, Tiglao said.

AFP

Inflation slows to 6.3%

(From page B1)

Treasury bill rates during the auction on Monday.

"Maybe it's too much to expect that the BSP will slash its overnight rates but there is a reason to relax the reserve requirement on banks and free more liquidity in the system. If interest rates were to go down, there may be a little more uptick in loan demand," Vistan added.

Analysts, however, agreed that the lower inflation and the peso strengthening in recent weeks gave the BSP enough room to reduce rates but they were divided on the timing, with some seeing quick action while others were forecasting caution.

Bankers Association of the Philippines chief economist, Johnny Noe Ravalo said the low August inflation rate would give the government more leeway to recalibrate policies in response to the demands of the real economy.

"Inflation rate is a non-issue for the rest of the year. Economic planners now have more room to focus on their priorities without worrying about the inflation," Ravalo said.

But AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the lower August inflation could simply be an indication of a weakening domestic demand.

"The demand factor has a stronger impact on overall price levels. We don't have a problem with production because we have abundant supply of goods but consumer confidence is still very low so producers are not able to pass on the higher costs of production to consumers," Vistan said.

The country's eight-month inflation average now stood at 6.6 percent, well within the 6-7 percent range targeted by the government for the full year.

Inflation rate in the National Capital Region dropped to 7.4 percent in August from 8.3 percent in July while inflation rate outside the NCR also slid to 5.9 percent from 6.3 percent. ***With a report from Reuters***

"WITH MY NEW, NATURAL HAIR FROM SVENSON, I DON'T HAVE TO STAY BALD!"

If you're really uncomfortable with your baldness, **Svenson International** offers a revolutionary hair replacement that will make you forget you were ever bald in the first place. **Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR)** is the most advanced non-surgical hair replacement technology ever developed for baldness. It is far superior to other hair replacement methods being used today and will remain unequalled and unsurpassed for a long time to come. It's not only a perfect match to your real hair's color and texture but it also looks, moves, and feels as natural as your own! It is seamless, invisible, and totally convincing as your real hair even to a conscious probing touch. Run your fingers through it and you'll never guess the difference! With CTR, you can go swimming or do vigorous activities that no one can detect it, unlike ill-fitting and fake-looking wigs and toupees. It is such a natural part of you and looks as real as the hair you were born with.

Come to the professional hair center that can give you the ideal solution to your baldness problem. Get the CTR advantage only at Svenson!

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

MAKATI
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.
817-2260 • 817-2194

QUEZON CITY
Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue
372-6631 • 372-6632

BINONDO
Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.
243-0128 • 244-8913

ALABANG
Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.
842-1389 • 842-4181

CEBU
Keppel Centre, Cebu City
032-2340851 • 032-2340853

Certified by ASI Asian Society of Trichology

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

DTI supports plan to hire private import inspector

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is backing a plan by the Department of Finance to hire a private import inspector to foil technical smuggling at the country's ports.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said that while the reduction in tariffs has reduced incentive for outright smuggling, unscrupulous traders have resorted to undervaluation or misdeclaration of goods to bring in commodities at cheaper rates.

Roxas said technical smuggling was particularly rampant in substitute or alternative products with substantially lower duties. He said the government has very limited capacity to strictly monitor all incoming shipments, which was why they need a pre-shipment inspection firm to do their job.

He said technical smuggling was not only adversely affecting local industries manufacturing these goods but was also eating up on the revenues of the Bureau of Customs whose collections have dropped with the tariff reduction program of the government.

Roxas said the revival of the pre-shipment import inspection scheme, which was terminated in 1999, would also allow faster processing and release of documents covering the shipments.

Roxas said businessmen were willing to pay a fee to let an authorized inspector to certify their goods before shipment in order to expedite their release once they arrive in Philippine ports.

The DOF is currently evaluating proposals by several pre-shipment inspection firms such as SGS to take over Customs duties at the ports. Unlike previous import surveillance contracts, the private sector and not the government will spend for the services of the pre-shipment firm.

Roxas said this plan was more feasible considering that it would be hard for the BOC to justify the hiring of an import surveillance firm when its tariff collections were expected to decline further with the continued import liberalization program of the government.

During SGS' 12-year contract, the government spent $100 million for the Swiss firm's services but it more than covered for these fees with billions of dollars worth of customs collections during the period.

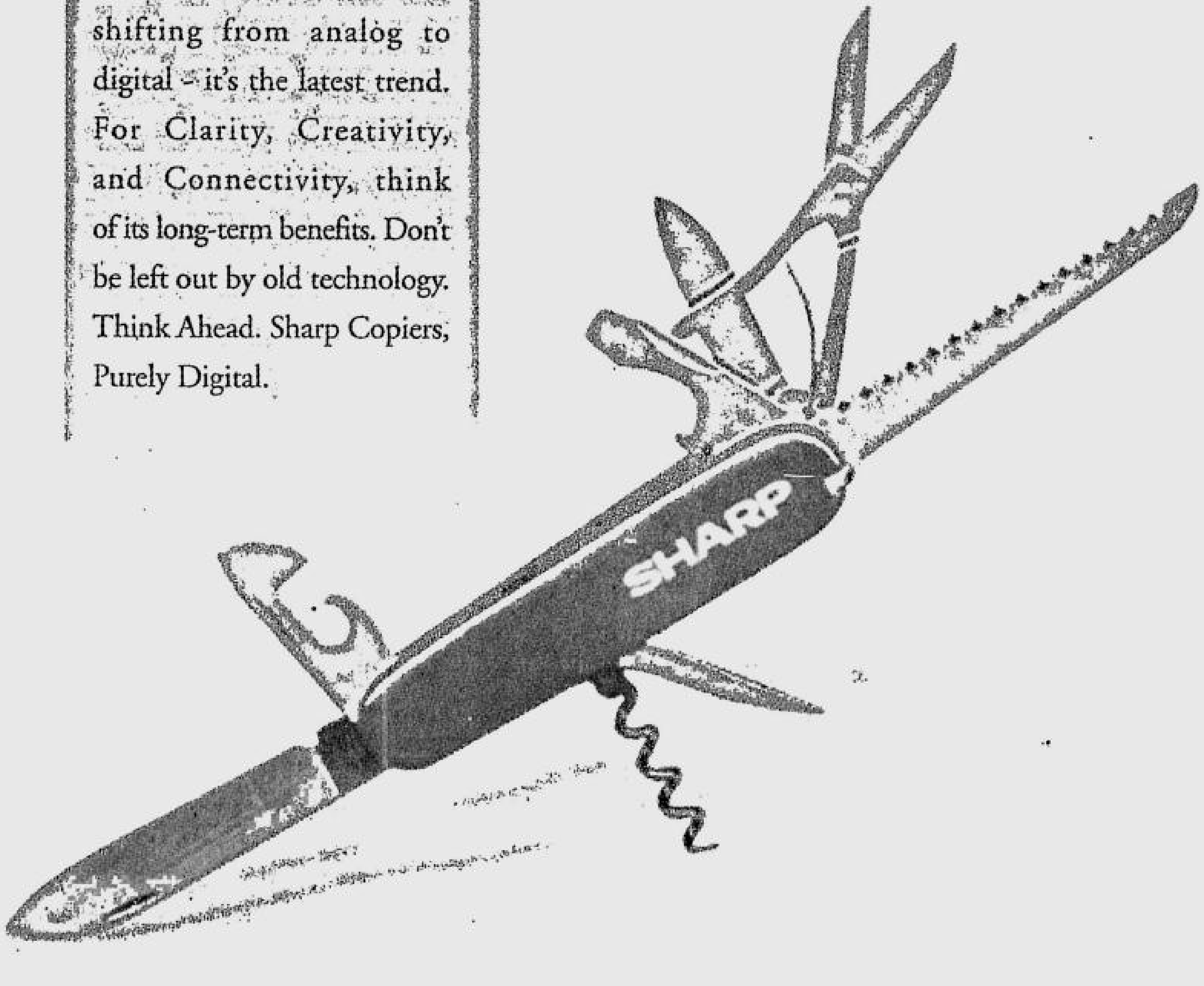
NOTICE

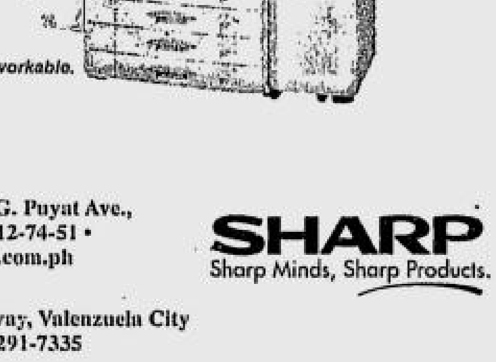
Please be advised of the change of corporate name of

PCIB CIGNA Life Insurance Corporation
to
Equitable PCI Life Insurance Corporation

as contained in the Amended Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws with SEC Registration No. AS 095-11178.

Equitable PCI LIFE





SHARP
COPIERS
Purely Digital.

The Most in Features.

Most companies are now shifting from analog to digital - it's the latest trend. For Clarity, Creativity, and Connectivity, think of its long-term benefits. Don't be left out by old technology. Think Ahead. Sharp Copiers, Purely Digital.

Sharp Digital Copiers are networkable.

DATACOM SYSTEMS CORP.
MITSU MACHINE PHILS., INC.
SALES • SERVICE NATIONWIDE

Sharp Copying Machine Center, 65 Sen. G. Puyat Ave.,
Makati City Tels. 887-45-40; 844-42-42; 812-74-51 •
Fax: 843-4273 E-mail: Info@sharpcopier.com.ph
Web Site: http://www.sharpcopier.com.ph

CAMANAVA Branch: 215 McArthur Hi-way, Valenzuela City
Tels. 291-7328; 291-7334; 291-7343; Fax: 291-7335

SHARP
Sharp Minds, Sharp Products.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912 9008 11 Fax 912-9011
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 4211420 ☎ 4210343 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC T8175071 MATRINCO BLDG. 2178 PTAMO MKT 9-2pm

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

DESIGN-BUILD
726-7340 • 0917-2403756

P400/SHT CAD DRAFTING P10/M² STRUC'L DESIGN P5T HSE/BLDG PLAN P4T Land Survey 7282605

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

Slimming Program 521-9683

MASSAGE

ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8511883 100% HDSME

Aldrin•Masseur•704-8757

COOL DUDES 5758150

GIGOLO 815-1168

H-H-MS Male 7314018

Male 16 Palanan 7320659

•Male Hot Stuff•
Ring 411-4494

MASSAGE FRED 8513462

•NewMabuhay Msg4215996

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

24 HR/Zoren/09173849954

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

MASSAGE CARLA 716-4898

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LA LUZ 5268216/70

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039

Efficient, Trained Maids
873-5271 • 873-5062

Good-Maids-Yaya-Driver 7570579

★ ANNIVERSARY PROMO ★
Lowest Office Fee
Prov'l & City All Around
Maids Cook Yaya H's Boy
Available Nationwide
Las Pinas: 873-7057 • 872-0265 •
Cubao: 912-4701 • 913-4235
Zapote: 873-1433 • 873-7055
Munti & Pque: 807-5788 • 853-3505

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

Home Maid Specialist
Call Tel. 660-4589

We have maids oldsitter PT hmecare 4141135 7112366

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT BAHAY
24 hrs. mover MM/Provincial
Tel. # 631-5180 • 631-5162
632-9850 • 632-9845
631-6497 • 631-6496

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

Lipat Bahay Tel. 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MAKATI

Nr ROCKWELL CTR 7M Neg 895-9336 SALVE

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Semi Furnished 3BR 2TB Contact Alma 873-3324

MANILA

10 MINS. FRM AYALA
BNewTwnhse Zobel Roxas Mktl 4sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

RUSH SALE HOUSE & LOT Bungalow Vermont Subd. Marcos Hi-wayP1.6M 921-9465

PARANAQUE

BF 3M cor lot 308m² 5434469

QUEZON CITY

•Loyola Grand Villas•
4BR P8M NEG. 435-2346

Malaya St., Banawe 7314018

PLEASANT VIEW QC
New Bungalow & Lot LA230m² FA210m² call T9297052/54

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL AIR3
American House Concept
Only Re: 36 PDC & 15% D.P.
Renz 410-6916 • 0917-8174842

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0917-8143792

VARIOUS AREAS

Rent / Sale Suzuaregui, Cmwlth Ave. QC & Pasig G'Prk, Ph8, Cainta 373-4559/373-3469 ofc hrs

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178143792

LOT

LAS PINAS

1KM FR SOUTHMALL HI CONCRETE FENCE 684m² 2500P/m² T8731971 09176167426 CLEAN TITLE DIRECT ONLY

PARANAQUE

Marcelo 357m² ED 5326105

RIZAL

Ciudad Delsol
5T Reserve LOTS Cash/Easy Inst Tels. 658-2116/2115

PROVINCIAL

GOVERNOR'S DRV, CAVITE P3T/SQ, 5 YRS-PAY, 242-1521

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.7M 3BR2TB 8428853

MANILA

DYNASTY TOWERS
1&2 Bedrooms
For Lease or Sale
Ready for Move-in
Tel. # 252-2030-Linda

PASIG

RENSANC 8M 219sqm 3743711

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

•Loyola TH 4.5M 6819868

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

Santol LA150m² 4br 7360975

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

A Modern Office - Residential Condominium

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
nr Ateneo NCBA Mkt hosp R 50T 70T Move in 3yrs 0%Int/ 5yr w/Jacussi sauna pool dresser cab Rhood Cell Big disc for CASH!
MOVERS DEV'T & MKTG.
4211350/4210734/4331073
Text 0919-4076857
Agent Accreditation 9-11am

VARIOUS AREAS

RENT TO OWN DEAL/NO DP!
GHILLS/MAND/PASIG
2-3BR @ 16T-23T/mo.
Call:09175229214/5320625

WSIDE NMLA 5.5M 2BR UP PASIG AJT 3.5M 9155177

OTHER AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
810-7297 815-2144
871-8318 810-7183
872-7603 810-8019
829-5081
Welcome Brokers & Agents
write to
forterealty@skyinet.net

MEMORIAL LOT

The Heritage Park
Fort Bonifacio

NOW OPEN...
Selling Lawns, Gardens, and Estate Lots

Buy direct from the office:
The Heritage Park,
Corporate Bldg., Bayani Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.

Tel. No. 845-2341 / 845-2342 / 845-2651

FACTORY/WHSE

W/houses 4sale/rent 6427246

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

STUDIO Size 5T T896-18-20

MAKATI

KWOOD Mktl 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

CONDO/TWNHSE:

PASIG

Townhouse 4BR 2TB 1H²o Tank 2Garage Rosario Pasig P15T /mo. DR. Lao 0917-8422134 • 655-0691 • 726-0305

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Maginhawa St.,Teachers Vill 2Br2Tb FA65m² Condo Unit only P16T net monthly rental T927-1316 Cel-09172516362

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS Condo Units For Lease/Sale Call: Sally •7254991/(0917)9334266•

FOR LEASE

Burgundy Westbay Twr
coml/ofc 42-90 sqm
•759-4091•752-2580• •303-0673•(0917)8381928• •(0917)7889202•

EDSA & MAND. 952-0330

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

G/F Ayala Offices T818-1696

RESORT

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

KIA

★ P235T up★
Grace, Besta, Pregio
good running condition loaded
732-9805 742-3374

MERCEDES

MB100 98 365T 4330568

MITSUBISHI

96 Galant SS Manual 315T 0917-5282271 Tel. 7213151

96 L200 w/Bedcover 63000KM P270T 8439359/ 09174194265/09173504744

OTHER CAR BRANDS

INFQ45 6Kkms like New TX PD 2.5Mneg Call 721-4773

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

CAR VANS 413-5383

BrdalMB/Vans9296250,4535288

Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

HIACE L300 Urvan 8257135

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MB100/Hi-Ace Call 641-1859

NEW PREGIO L300 8254058

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

CAR SERVICE

Home Services Auto Bangga Repair In Painting
Call 09192555065

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3640928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

10#20#100 KVA Gen 3610215

Farm Tractor 55T 3672002

HOME APPLIANCE

National Split Type yr 2000 good as bnew P22T 3ton Carrier Condura 99 P35T cieling mounted Packg 5ton P55 7.5tons P60T 9219465 4262970 4554061

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Male ROTT Pups CHL 3.5mos. 363-3933 • 0917-8199948

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARD Table & Supplies SM Fairview 3/F Storyland 0919-6108798

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's •8618714/16 •8613123 •8613125•

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09174383744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL:8390002
8390004

MISCELLANEOUS

Hearing Aid 3.8T 7800807

Phone Monitor 7800807

Photoshop 7111650 Mr. Pua

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Expd. Family Cook 7225614

Nurse/M'wife Stay-in T5610681

MALE/FEMALE

• 8 ofc Staff•9168033 Ace

CARE GIVER T5280722

Clerk Sec. 7136116 Ruth

JOB HIRING !!!
LEMY JEWELRY PHILS. INC.
Factory Worker, Driver
Sales Executive 18 - 24 yrs.
with pleasing personality
T#s(049)5491095 / 5491377

Wanted Immediately!!
SALES AGENTS
M/F, Excellent Commision with or w/o Exp. Bring Bio-data, NBI, 2x2, Picture
Tel.# 534-5926 or 27

WTD: Yaya/H.Maids/EngChi Tcher, Fam. Cook 6604589

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

QCRB Real Estate Seminar
Sept.8,15,22&29 8am-5pm
T-7216884/9122304-5847

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

Shake Powders 823-6212

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Tiangge Stalls for Xmas Supermarket Space 300sqm across LTO, Q.C. Call 925-7212 • 925-7365 • Cel(0917)8480612

Work From Home 8937903

EARN UNLIMITED INCOME
JEWELLERY
ON CONSIGNMENT
VERY EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS
CALL OUR HOT LINES: 8390004
8390060

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Remedios A. Abis has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. No. 388; Page No. 78; Book No. 107; Series of 2001 of Notary Public H.B. Basco of the City of Manila
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that
the estate of the late
• MANUEL U. LONTOC •
has been extrajudicially
settled by his heirs on
March 30, 2001 under
Doc. #10, Page #3, Book #1,
Series 2001 before Notary
Public Tristan R. Yu
of Makati City
(PDI-Sept.6, 13 & 20, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Certificates of SCHEMA Konsult, Inc. Nos: 12 (125 sh), 24(100 sh), 48(44 sh), 69(102sh) and 95(371 sh) all in the name of Emmanuel A. Vargas

Notice is given to the public that stock certificate no. 228 of the Rural Bank of Pangil (Laguna), Inc. is declared lost.
(PDI-Sept.6, 13 & 20, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O. Holy St. Jude Apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.E.L.M.

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

DYNAMIC, PROFESSIONAL LEADERS
LEAD THE 21st CENTURY

- ➢ QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
- ➢ QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
- ➢ WAREHOUSE MANAGER
- ➢ WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR
- ➢ ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- ➢ COMPANY DRIVER
- ➢ TRAILER DRIVER

Qualified applicants are requested to hand-carry their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only at:

KANEPACKAGE PHILIPPINE INC.
#5 Ringroad Light Industry & Science Park of the Philippines II
Brgy. La Mesa, Calamba, Laguna with tel. nos. (049) 545-7166 to 69
Look for Ms. Katherine Opulencia

WANTED
COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE
Send Bio-data/Resumé to:
P.O. Box 781
Manila - 1099
Philippines

Where you find the best.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

New Manila 5BR 3Cargrge
Beautiful Hse Call 7001111

Invite 2.8 million people to come inside your house.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Read Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

TYT '2000 4-wheel drive
P1.4M Neg. T-3456781

Invite 2.8 million people to test drive your car.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Read Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Break into the mind of the Asian woman

MOST products target women as their consumers. She may be a yuppie or a housewife. But do you really know the individual behind her?

Rediscover the individual behind the Asian woman of today via Adformatix and Hakuhodo's symposium entitled "What Asian Women Want": Under the Sei-Katsu-Sha Microscope to be held on Sept. 6, 11 a.m. at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

Hakuhodo's first-of-its-kind and extensive Pan-Asian research will discuss The Six Types of Women that Most Asian Women Aspire to Become. A separate seminar will discuss the nature of the Asian and Filipino businessmen.

Hakuhodo's in depth research on the Sei-Katsu-Sha, or the total individual behind the shopper, aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of target markets. Differences and similarities in priorities of individuals among Asian nations will also be discussed. The symposium will help bridge the gap between businesses and target markets for more strategic plans.

National Power Corporation

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Asset Disposal Project

INVITATION TO BID

for the Disposal through Sale of

2 x 100 MW POWER BARGES

"as is, where is"

DATE OF BIDDING: **SEPTEMBER 25, 2001**

The National Power Corporation of the Philippines invites interested parties to bid for the following NPC Power Barges on an "as is, where is" basis:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	MIN. BID PRICE
LOT 1 - 100 MW POWER BARGE PB-117 consisting of two (2) x 50 MW MAN B&W Diesel Engine, type: 12K90MC-S; 2 units 59,016 KVA Generators at 13.8 KV, 60 Hz; nominal barge output: 100 MW at 13.8 KV; including auxiliaries and corresponding spare parts, located at Bgy. Sta. Ana, Nasipit, Agusan Del Norte.	US $ 85.0 M
LOT 2 - 100 MW POWER BARGE PB-118 consisting of two (2) x 50 MW MAN B&W Diesel Engine, type: 12K90MC-S; 2 units 59,016 KVA Generators at 13.8 KV, 60 Hz; nominal barge output: 100 MW at 13.8 KV; including auxiliaries and corresponding spare parts, located at Maco, Davao Del Norte	US $ 85.0 M

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents and technical specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand US Dollars (US$2,000.00)** at the Office of the Asset Disposal Project, 3rd Floor, Building No.1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

A pre-bid conference shall be held at 10:00 AM on **September 20, 2001** at the NPC Solarium, Building 1, NPC Head Office, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at 2:00 PM on **September 25, 2001** at NPC Diliman Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein, and to accept only such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Government.

Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad Jr. or Mr. Levi C. Arabelo at telephone nos. (632) 921-3382 / (632) 924-5384 and (632) 922-3370, respectively, and at fax no. (632) 921-2514.

(Sgd.) **RIZALINO G. SANTOS**
Chairman, Task Force for the Sale of
100 MW Power Barge PB-117 AND PB-118

(PDI -- Sept. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING SECTION 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY ACT OF 2001

Consistent with the constitutional mandate for dispersal of ownership and de-monopolization of public utilities as enunciated under Section 28 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Act of 2001, the Energy Regulatory Commission hereby adopts and promulgates the following rules and regulations to implement the aforesaid section.

Section 1. ***Definition of Terms.*** - As used in these Rules:

(a) *Common Share of Stock* shall refer to the evidence of ownership in a stock corporation with complete voting rights;

(b) *Controlling Stockholders* shall refer to the stockholders, natural or juridical, singly or collectively with related interests, owning more than 25% of the voting shares of a distribution utility.

(c) *De monopolization* shall refer to the process of removing control by a stockholder and related interests in a distribution utility through sale, transfer or other modes of disposition of their stockholding in excess of the ceiling prescribed under RA 9136;

(d) *Dispersal of Ownership* shall refer to the sale, transfer or other modes of disposition of the stock ownership of persons, natural or juridical, including directors, officers, stockholders and their related interests in a distribution utility and their respective holding, companies;

(e) *Distribution Utility* shall refer to any electric cooperative, private corporation, government-owned utility or existing local government unit which has an exclusive franchise to operate a distribution system in accordance with RA 9136;

(f) *Electric Cooperative* shall refer to a distribution utility organized pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, or as otherwise provided in RA 9136;

(g) *Energy Regulatory Board (ERB)* shall refer to the independent quasijudicial regulatory body created under Executive Order No. 172, as amended;

(h) *Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)* shall refer to the independent quasijudicial regulatory body created under RA 9136;

(i) *Holding Company* shall refer to a juridical person holding more than 25% of the voting stocks of a distribution utility;

(j) *Person* shall refer to any being, natural or juridical, capable of possessing legal rights and obligations, or of being the subject of legal relations;

(k) *Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)* shall refer to an entity created under the Revised Securities Act to manage the trading of shares of stocks of listed corporations;

(l) *Public Utility* as referred to herein shall mean a distribution company which has been granted a franchise by the Congress of the Philippines and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) by the Energy Regulatory Board or the Energy Regulatory Commission. This term shall likewise refer to an electric cooperative with existing franchise granted by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) subject to the provisions of Section 27 of RA 9136;

(m) *Related Interests* shall refer to either a natural person related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to a director, officer or stockholder of a distribution company, or to juridical persons affiliated to each other through common business interest or belonging to a business group where the holdings of the stockholders altogether constitute a majority or control in one (1) or more enterprises;

(n) *Small Distribution Company* shall refer to a distribution facility whose peak demand is equal to or less than ten (10) MW.

Section 2. ***Coverage.*** - These Rules shall apply to all private distribution utilities except electric cooperatives.

Section 3. ***Divestment of Shareholdings in Distribution Utilities.*** - The holdings of any person, natural or juridical, including directors, officers, stockholders and their related interests in a distribution utility and their respective holding companies shall not exceed twenty-five (25%) percent of the total voting shares of stock.

Any holding in excess of the ceiling prescribed herein shall be divested in accordance with these Rules.

Section 4. ***Exemption from Divestment of Shareholdings.*** - The provisions of the preceding section shall not apply to a distribution utility or the company holding the shares or its controlling stockholders whose shares are already listed on the PSE at the time of the effectivity of RA 9136.

Section 5. ***Period of Divestment for Distribution Companies.*** - Distribution Companies with peak demand of more than 10 MW, whose directors, officers, stockholders and their related interests together with their respective holding companies, own more than twenty-five (25%) percent of the total voting shares of stocks, are hereby directed to cause the listing of their common shares of stock on the PSE within three (3) years from the effectivity of these Rules but not later than five (5) years from the effectivity of RA 09136.

Small Distribution Companies whose directors, officers, stockholders and their related interests together with their respective holding companies own more than twenty-five (25%) percent of the total voting shares of stock are required to list their shares on the PSE within five (5) years from the effectivity of RA 9136.

Small Distribution Companies which, after the date of effectivity of RA 9136, shall have new directors, officers, stockholders and their related interests together with their respective holding companies owning more than twenty-five (25%) percent of their total voting shares of stock shall undertake such listing within five (5) years from the time said stockholders acquire ownership and control over the companies.

The requirements of the preceding paragraphs shall be deemed to have been complied with if the company holding their shares or the controlling stockholders have already caused the listing of their shares on the PSE within the period above prescribed.

Section 6. ***Registration of Securities.*** - Unless exempted, all stocks and securities of distribution utilities must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), prior to their listing on the PSE.

The registration of stocks and securities shall be subject to the existing rules and regulations of the SEC.

Section 7. ***PSE Listing.*** - The registered voting stocks and securities of distribution utilities covered by these Rules shall be listed on the PSE in accordance with its applicable rules and regulations.

Section 8. ***Reportorial Requirements.*** - Distribution utilities covered by these Rules shall, within sixty (60) days upon listing of their common shares of stock on the PSE, submit reports to the ERC on the extent of their compliance herewith together with Certifications from the PSE showing the number of shares listed, names of the shareholders presently owning the said shares and other relevant informations for monitoring and verification purposes.

Section 9. ***Imposition of Fines and Penalties.*** - Any person, natural or juridical, found guilty of violating these rules and regulations shall be subject to the penalties provided under Section 46 of RA 9136.

Section 10. ***Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, any section of these Rules is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or sections hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 11. ***Effectivity Clause.*** - These Implementing Rules and Regulations shall take effect on the fifteenth (15th) day following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Pasig City, August 24, 2001.

(Sgd.) **FE B. BARIN**
Chairman

(Took No Part)
MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **OLIVER B. BUTALID**
Commissioner

(On Leave)
CARLOS R. ALINDADA
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **LETICIA V. IBAY**
Commissioner

(PDI -- Sept. 6, 2001)

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

[illegible]

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3528
Cell. No. (0917) 985-2591

Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618

Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182

Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9160

Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine &
Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200

Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/622-6925

Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2654

Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

Rosalina D. De Guzman

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 02, 2001
at the age of 65.

Her late husband, **Go Tian**; her children and children-in-law **Teresita, Rosita & Teodoro, Juliana & Felipe, Tomas & Mariz**; and grandchildren **Jillian & Julian Thomas** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 08, 2001, 10:00 AM at the Loyola Memorial Park (Parañaque) after the 8:00 AM Mass.

On the 10th Death Anniversary
of

Felix B. Bautista

who died September 6, 1991

His wife **Nena**, 12 children, other members
of his family and friends request the reader
for prayers and acts of mercy
in his memory.

EDITHA ROXAS-ANGELES

Retired Supervisor-Division of City Schools, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 4, 2001
at the age of 75.

Her bereaved husband **MAX**; children **LOURDES** and **ISAGANI ALFONSO, EVELYN R. ANGELES, MAXIMO JR.** and **EMMA ANGELES, ELIZABETH** and **JOSE QUINTANA**; grandchildren **ANSEL, MARK, CHRISTA MARA** and **MARICRIS**; brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel,
G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 8, 2001 at
the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa,
Caloocan City at 2:00 PM.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

ARLINGTON EAST
Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel, Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609
Telefax 641-1760

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad
Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City
Tel. 894-5932 to 34

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St.
Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133
Fax No. 711-3064

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon
Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 322-5247 ; (045) 888-2959

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136 ; (0917) 5680145

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. 895-1011 to 19

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel,
27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St.,
Pasay City
Tels. 831-1204

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills,
Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St.,
Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave.,
Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286 / 87

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue
517-A Arnaiz St.,
Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St.,
Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; (0919) 348-7131

SAFER ZONE FOR MOTORISTS?

Expressway patrol men show more muscle

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

A PASSENGER of a Baliwag Transit bus, sensing danger was about to happen, abruptly alighted along the North Expressway and reported suspicious-looking passengers to an expressway patrol vehicle. The report was immediately flashed in the radios of patrol vehicles 9, 99 and Panther 9. The response was swift. The bus was intercepted at Km 31 in Barangay San Juan, Balagtas, Bulacan. Two holdup men were caught in the act of divesting another male passenger of his valuables.

Rowena Lansaban, 29, of Tondo, Manila, was rushed to the South Super Hi-way Medical Center by Patrol Vehicle 01 after she collapsed in a jeep she was riding in. The incident happened along the Skyway, before midnight sometime in June.

A hijack attempt was foiled during the predawn hours of July 2 at the Calamba Toll Plaza. The hijackers tried to seize a cargo truck loaded with construction materials while it was parked near the exit of the plaza. Alert operatives prevented the suspects from stealing the goods as they fled aboard a getaway vehicle.

Proponents of a project called the "Traffic Discipline Zone" along the gateways of Metro Manila are intensifying enforcement, education and engineering efforts since April. Speed guns, newly painted road markings, additional highway lighting, rescue patrols and trained enforcers, spotters, and even watch towers have all been added.

Model

The TDZ project, being implemented along the North and South Luzon Tollways and the Skyway, is hoped to become a model that other local government units (LGUs) can replicate in their own areas.

Already, rescue patrols and enforcers are claiming traffic-related accidents have been reduced for the past months. Enforcers also claim that they have quickly responded during emergencies and crime situations. But that is not all that the TDZ enforcers do. Spotters are reportedly apprehending drivers of slow-moving vehicles on the fast lanes, overspeeders and swervers. Apprehending officers are also reportedly trained to be more courteous and patient when explaining traffic violations to motorists. The TDZ proponents say that its next target is to make traveling convenient and economical in the near future.

The Land Transportation Office traffic safety division has tied up with the Philippine National Construction Corp. for the TDZ project.

Reported incidents

In July alone, responding operatives have reported incidents that are crime-related, vehicular accidents, engines catching fire, and discovery of time bombs. Some of the highlights:

- About four kilos of suspected shabu were seized when found in a white Mitsubishi Lancer after the vehicle was involved in an accident in Barangay Canumay, Valenzuela City, late afternoon of July 6;
- On the same day in Bilibid, Muntinlupa, a prankster threw rocks at passing vehicles on the tollway. An occupant of a Saint Rose Transit Bus was hit and wounded and was taken to the hospital by responding Patrol Vehicle 45 to the PHMC-Biñan for treatment.
- A hijacked green and silver Isuzu cargo truck loaded with an undetermined amount of canned goods was found at Km 81, Barangay Pulong Cacutod, Angeles City, at around 2 a.m. of July 12 by Patrol Vehicle 82.
- At the Calamba Toll Plaza on July 28, a bus conductor was hit by a stray bullet on the left shoulder. He was taken to the nearest hospital by responding Patrol Vehicle 42.

Not all are pleased

But not all are pleased with the Traffic Discipline Zone. Motorist Genie Lagman said he was accosted by a PNCC spotter at midnight of July 14 at the Calamba exit because he was not wearing his seatbelt.

"I unfastened my seatbelt because I was about to pay at the exit. The officer saw me when my belt was already unbuckled," he reasoned.

Another motorist, who refused to give her name, was skeptical of the TDZ.

"They're just pulling my leg!" she exclaimed. "A traffic discipline zone won't work in this country. We should clean up the issuing of licenses first."

The TDZ, said LTO traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo, may cover a fraction of the Metro Manila highways. Nevertheless, she said, this project would be a gauge of the effectiveness of the measure.

"Give us a chance to do something worthwhile and help us prove that something would work out if everyone would cooperate," exhorted Jacobo. She added that suggestion boxes would be placed on toll plazas to enable motorists to provide feedback.

"This is a parallel objective, not a support for the LTO," said PNCC's Luis Sison. "The LTO initiated (this project) and we want the tollways to stand out as a thoroughfare that is going to be an example of the motorists following the traffic rules."

Jacobo said that the officials of the Naia highways have expressed interest to have its own TDZ implemented along the airport vicinity.

The trouble with speed limits

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

ANALYSIS

DO the new speed rules make the roads safer? Does it violate our human rights? Have the new rules benefited motorists in general or are these nuisances that actually make driving more hazardous?

Given the typical 15-kilometer per hour speeds along most Metro Manila roads during rush hour, and the average 80-kilometer per hour acceleration during the slack traffic period, the expressways are the last bastions of speeds over 80 near the metropolis.

A maximum speed limit is posted to inform motorists of the highest speed considered to be safe and reasonable under favorable road, traffic, and weather conditions. However, the process of determining these "safe" speeds is a totally different thing altogether.

Although cars have become faster, they have become safer too. According to a study conducted by a British car magazine on car crashes, vehicles built from the mid '80s up were more likely to protect its occupants in an accident over 80 kph than a car built just 10 years earlier. Carmaker's attention to safety was also borne out of their insistence on making faster cars.

If anyone noticed, the new speed limits have not changed anything in the way Filipino drivers tackle the expressway. Most are still as unruly and unsafe as ever. And because the speed limits are clearly posted, slower drivers seem to have taken it to mean that driving slow on the fast lane is completely legal.

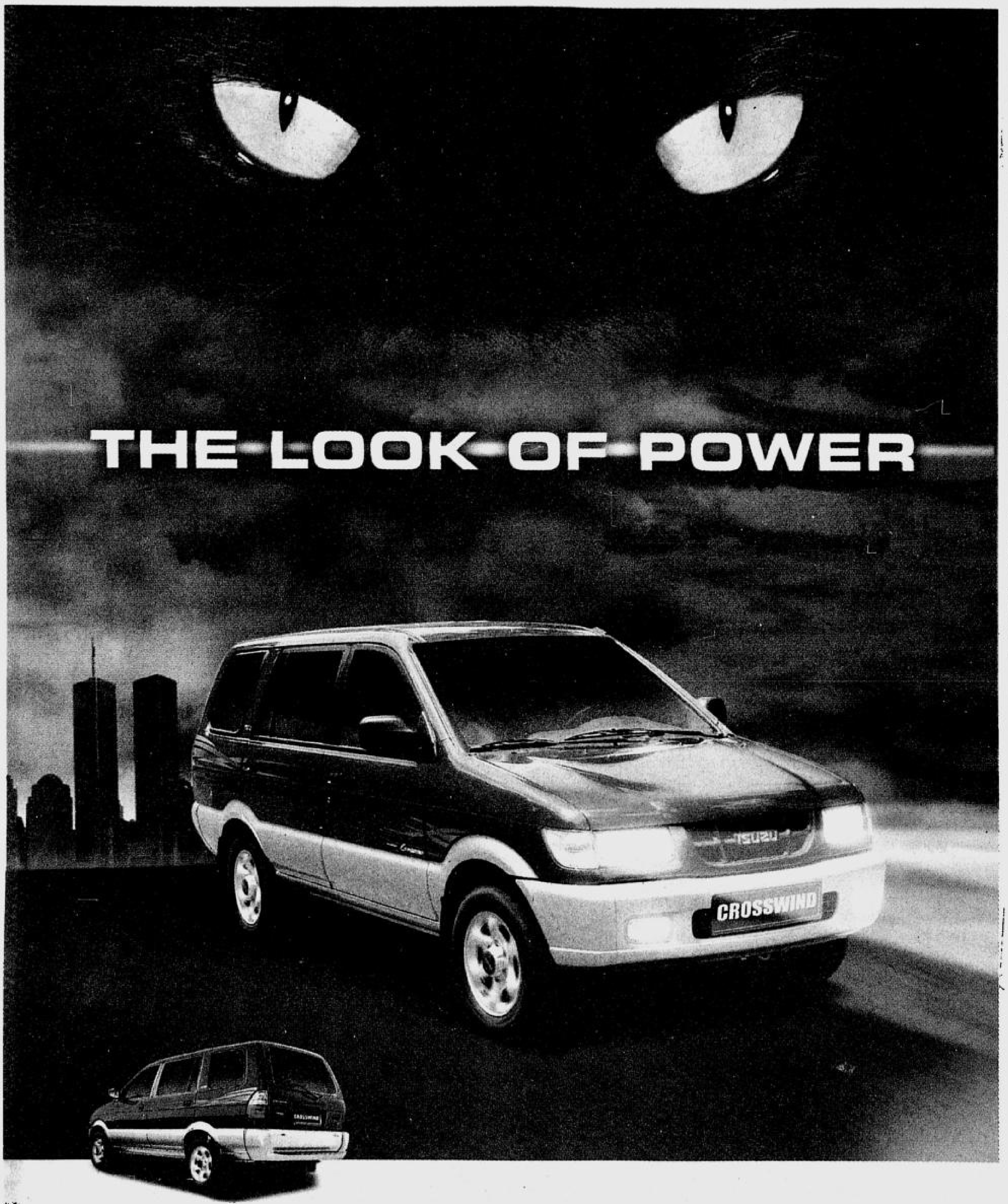
Moreover, because there were few changes in the speed distribution—slow cars continue to drive slowly and fast ones continue to overtake unnecessarily, it is not surprising that the overall effects of speed limit changes are minor. It is also interesting to note that even just observing the slower moving traffic, it is easy to conclude that compliance decreased now that speed limits were enforced.

Should the speed limit be increased?

It is not a question of increasing the speed limit, it is a question of proper enforcement. More than that however, it is a change in the driving culture—something that would take generations to effect. Increasing the speed limit will do nothing if drivers cannot pace themselves at a safe distance with other road users, whether on two, four or eight wheels.

Too high a speed limit may increase accident risk for drivers who are inexperienced or who disregard the basic speed law. Too slow and the expressway becomes as useless as Edsa during rush hour, because traffic speed decreases exponentially—a car driving at 60 kph on the fast lane will slow down traffic to almost a standstill 60 cars down.

But has anyone apprehended that overloaded jeep, or that slow-moving vehicle on the fast lane?



ISUZU
DIESEL AUTOMATIC TURBO

DIESEL AUTOMATIC TURBO
The New Isuzu Crosswind.
The first and only crossover vehicle in its class equipped with
2.5 Diesel Automatic Turbo engine. You get a vehicle that's more powerful,
more comfortable and provides better economy.
Look at the power of this beauty.

THE NEW ISUZU HI-LANDER CROSSWIND

PHOTO MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL UNIT

METRO MANILA
ISUZU EDSA
(INTECO EDSA)
1127 EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 363-3180, 364-8762,
410-4838, 413-6939,
413-6940, 413-6951
Telefax No. 366-9335 or 37

ISUZU PANGASINAN
(INTECO Pangasinan)
Rizal Street, Dagupan City
Tel. Nos. (075) 522-0358,
515-4209
Telefax No. (075) 523-4825

ISUZU BACOLOD
(Southern Auto Mart and Trading Corp.)
Gen. Lacson Street,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. Nos. (034) 441-0778
441-1878,220-00
Telefax No. (034) 441-0777

ISUZU QUEZON AVENUE
(INTECO Quezon Avenue)
1069 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 926-7111, 920-2984,
920-3174, 926-7114,
926-7482, 926-7481,
920-3423
Telefax No. 920-3124

ISUZU BULACAN
(B.M. Domingo Motor Sales, Inc.)
Km. 4 Tabang, Plandel, Bulacan
Telefax No. (044) 795-2342

MINDANAO
ISUZU CAGAYAN DE ORO
(Cebu Southern Motors, Inc.)
National Highway, Lapasan,
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 72-8344 to 45,
(088) 856-1892, 856-1310 to 13
Telefax No. (08822) 72-6017

ISUZU MANILA, INC.
(Isuzu Manila, Inc.)
1502 Paz M. Guanzon Street,
Otis, Paco, Manila
Tel. Nos. 562-4801 to 24
Fax No. 562-3787, 562-3771

ISUZU SAN PABLO
(Gencars Inc.)
Brgy. 1-A Colago Ave.
San Pablo City
Telefax No. (049) 562-8200
Tel. No. (049) 562-9996

ISUZU DAVAO
(Southern Motors of Davao, Inc.)
122 McArthur Highway,
SMDI Bldg., Matina, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 297-3344
297-8855, 297-8844,
297-8866, 297-8877
Telefax No. (082) 298-0088

ISUZU MAKATI
(Gencars, Inc.)
Dominga Bldg. III, 2113 Pasong Tamo
cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 819-1213, 819-1219,
817-9995, 843-6508, 843-6480,
843-2173, 843-2353, 843-5270,
Fax No. 893-8895, 893-1674

ISUZU CAVITE
(Isuzu Automotive Dealership Inc.)
E. Aguinaldo Hi-way, Imus, Cavite
Tel. Nos. (02) 750-4448 to 49,
(046) 472-2145
Telefax No. (046) 502-2608

Manufactured and distributed by:
ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
114 Technology Ave.,
Laguna Technopark Phase 2
Biñan, Laguna 4024 Philippines
Tel. Nos. (049) 541-0224
Fax No. 842-0202, (049) 541-0333

ISUZU ALABANG
(Isuzu Automotive Dealership, Inc.)
Alabang-Zapote cor. Acacia Ave.
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa, M.M.
Tel. Nos. 807-1788, 807-2310,
807-2316, 807-2326
Fax No. 800-5053

ISUZU BATANGAS
(Gencars-Batangas, Inc.)
Bo. San Roque, Crossing,
Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Tel. Nos. (043) 778-1225,
778-1227
Telefax No. (043) 778-2213

LUZON
ISUZU ISABELA
(B.M. Domingo Motor Sales, Inc.)
349 Maharlika Highway, San Fermin
Cauayan, Isabela
Tel. Nos. (078) 634-5046, 652-2030
652-3142
Telefax No. (078) 634-5209

VISAYAS
ISUZU MANDAUE (Isuzu Cebu, Inc.)
North Highway, Jagobiao,
Mandaue City 6014 Cebu
Tel. Nos. (032) 346-3090,
346-3078, 346-3067, 346-3056,
346-3078, 346-3024, 346-2632
Sales DL (032) 419-3282
Telefax No. (032) 346-3046

ISUZU CABANATUAN
(B.M. Domingo Motor Sales, Inc.)
Km. 109 Sumacab Este,
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City
Tel. Nos. (044) 463-8215, 463-1799
Telefax No. (044) 463-8214

Archbishop Reyes Avenue,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 234-0471 to 73
Fax No. (032) 234-0466

ISUZU
Your responsible partner
www.isuzuphil.com

Motorcyclists vs motorcyclist

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

LAST July, a Makati Regional Trial Court judge issued a court order that elated motorcyclists. Judge Teofilo L. Guadiz Jr. of Makati RTC Branch 147 issued a writ of preliminary injunction ordering the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to refrain from enforcing the ban on motorcycles at the North and South Luzon tollways.

Taking this to mean that the motorcycle ban was no longer in effect, bikers took to the tollways last month to savor their victory. For years, motorcycle clubs had been lobbying to lift the expressway ban that banished bikers to the crowded side streets. To their consternation, however, patrol officers of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), which operates the tollways, ordered bikers who did not have the PNCC sticker to leave the tollways or issued tickets and confiscated the licenses of those that had succeeded in entering. "PNCC Staff Continue to Harass Riders" screamed the webpage of the motorcycling set. It also informed readers, with notable glee, that two PNCC officers were arrested and imprisoned for contempt of court.

The irony of this PNCC vs. motorcyclists konfrontasi is that PNCC president Luis Sison himself is a rider who has toured the "Four Corners" of the United States on his big bike. But Sison is also a lawyer and he contends that the PNCC is not covered by the court writ.

"The PNCC was never a party to the case," Sison points out. "The case was between the DPWH and TRB as respondents and two motorcyclists as plaintiffs. Since the writ of preliminary injunction was issued only to the DPWH and TRB, the PNCC is not bound by it."

Moreover, some motorcyclists are misinterpreting the court order and misleading the public about it, Sison adds. "The court only says that the TRB can't issue rules banning motorcycles because it doesn't have the power. The court did not touch upon or invalidate DPWH Administrative Order (AO) No. 1, Series of 1967, the source of the ban on motorcycles at limited access facilities, which the tollways are. The PNCC is enforcing AO No. 1, not the TRB rules."

AO No. 1, Sison stresses, was recently amended. The PNCC asked DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong to revise it so that motorcycles with displacements of 400 cc and above would be exempted from the tollways ban. AO No. 1 was amended by Department Order 123 dated July 18, 2001 and it took effect 15 days after publication. Thus the PNCC stops motorcycles of less than 400 cc from entering the tollways. "If we don't, we wouldn't be enforcing AO No. 1 as amended and risk losing our franchise," Sison avers.

It is precisely to save bikers from hassle that the PNCC offers stickers for motorcycles of 400 cc and above, Sison says. "How else will PNCC officers know whether a bike is 400 cc or not? If your bike has no sticker, the PNCC officer is placed in a quandary about your bike, so he has no recourse but to stop you, inspect your engine, registration papers and your license. When you get a sticker for your bike, you also get an ID certifying that you are authorized to drive a motorcycle. The sticker and ID are given only after inspection of your bike, the registration papers and your driver's license to check its validity and whether Restriction Code No. 1 is indicated. If you don't have that Restriction No. 1 on the back of your license and you drive a motorcycle, it's like driving without a license." Many bikers, Sison reveals, were found to be "driving without a license" when they applied for a PNCC sticker.

As for the two PNCC officers jailed for contempt because they did not show up at their hearing, Sison said the judge erred in ordering them to answer the contempt charge because the PNCC was not a party to the case. Besides, they were never notified about the hearing. The Rules of Court state that a person cannot be cited for indirect contempt of court without a hearing, Sison says, but the judge, without trying to find out if the PNCC officers were served notice of the hearing, immediately ordered their arrest. The PNCC will file an administrative case against the judge for grave abuse of authority as he even refused to see the PNCC counsel when the latter went to his office with a cash bond for the release of the two PNCC officers.

Sison thinks that only a small segment of the motorcycling fraternity is bucking the voluntary PNCC sticker and insisting that all bikes, including those below 400 cc, are tollway-legal even though this would create chaos. If they persist and go back to court to seek the invalidation of AO No. 1, the PNCC will fight them all the way up to the Supreme Court, Sison vows.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph.

Isuzu expects to top CV sales

EYEING the top position in the CV (commercial vehicle) class sales this year, the country's diesel technology expert Isuzu Philippines Corp. has embarked on an aggressive across-the-line enhancement of its products. From its line of sport utility movers, multipurpose crossover vehicles to power pickups, Isuzu homogenized its perfected DAT (Diesel Automatic Turbo) technology in all vehicle classes.

Isuzu's DAT technology makes ends meet, merging enhanced engine power and lesser emissions, driving comfort and unmatched fuel economy. "Taking customer needs into account, we are making the DAT available in all of our product lines," says IPC vice president for marketing and sales Katsuhiko Kato. "Whatever logistic requirements our market would need, there's DAT in the Trooper, in our Crosswind, and in the Fuego pickup series. We see to it that all Isuzu vehicles are worth calling investments, always giving our clients value-for-money," he adds.

DAT represents a higher evolution of Isuzu vehicles, all with turbocharger endowing the engine with the power and responsiveness of a gasoline engine while still maintaining the high level of fuel efficiency that a diesel engine is noted for. The turbocharger also works for a more complete combustion. This eventuates to lesser emissions and pollutants such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Moreover, as the turbocharger greatly increases power at all engine speeds regardless of driving conditions and altitude, uphill climbs even in the most rutted and sloping roads become unconstrained.

Adding an ensemble of automatic variants for all vehicle categories, engine performance and power is a guarantee with Isuzu DAT's 4-speed automatic transmission. Isuzu's A/T boasts of an overdrive feature that heightens fuel efficiency, allowing faster response by lowering engine rpm in relation to road speed.

All these performance and economy features make up a formidable lineup of Isuzu power movers. "And of course, we are keeping our product prices at a competitive range," Kato says. "Automatic-turbo variants are priced at P1,449,000 for the Trooper 4x2, P1,999,000 for the Trooper 4x4, P1,020,000 for the Fuego Sport 4x4, P790,000 for the Fuego 4x2, and P773,000 for the Hi-lander Crosswind XTO," he concludes.

Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally set Sept. 15

AS PART of its 70th anniversary celebration, the Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly the Philippine Motor Association) is holding the Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally on Sept. 15.

To be held on the back roads of Cavite and ending in Tagaytay, the AAP's Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally will be limited to 30 cars and will run only in "uninstrumented" (no haidas, speed pilot, etc.) format. There will be two legs with about 20 checkpoints covering a distance of 150 km per leg.

The TSD (Tune, Speed, Distance) rally format will be used wherein competitors have to maintain an average speed while covering the distance between checkpoints. A second early or late from the expected time of arrival will mean a demerit. The main objective is to be "on time all the time" at any given point to get the least number of demerits. Thus the emphasis is on team coordination and strategy rather than driving fast.

The AAP yesterday held a rally briefing and will hold a final briefing at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 at the Philippine Motor Association Bldg., 683 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City. All AAP members and rally enthusiasts are invited to join the Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally, which will also commemorate the birthday of the AAP president. For more information, please call up Dennis Lopez at 723-0808.

CASH
Auto Service House
WASHOVER PROMO
P19,999
2K URETHANE PAINT
MIRROR FINISH
BRING BACK THAT SHOWROOM SHINE!
OTHER SERVICES RENDERED • COMPLETE AIRCON SERVICES • GENERAL BODY REPAIR • ENGINE OVERHAULING • ALV BODY BUILDER & CHASSIS ASSEMBLY • OVEN BAKED PAINTING • UNDERCHASSIS REPAIR • MUFFLER SERVICES • MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL REPAIR
CASH AUTO SERVICE HOUSE
2263 J. Abad Santos, Tondo, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 252-1552 • 251-5811 • 253-4206
CASH

aviation
COMPETITION COATINGS, PHILS.
101 Don Alejandro Roces Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 3722426 - 27; 3742423; 3742443; 3743616
Fax No. 3742428 E-mail: andalucia99@surfshop.net.ph
ADVANTAGES
GAS AND DIESEL ENGINES: *Ceramic, Dry Film Lubricants*
- Increase engine performance and combustion efficiency
- Lower harmful smoke emissions, more complete fuel burn
- Lower oil, engine & cylinder head operating temperature, MORE POWER
- Extend the life, durability and efficiency of engines
- Heat retention inside the combustion chambers, safely raises combustion temperature
TURBOCHARGER HOUSING : *Ceramic*
- Faster spooling of the impeller (less: TURBO LAG)
- More horsepower, heat transfer to the compressor
- Reduce turbocharger housing temperature
EXHAUST HEADERS / TUBES: *CeramicChrome, Black Ceramic*
- Heat retention, reduced under-hood temperature, improved gas flow
THERMAL DISPERSANT
- A Black heat emitter applied to the exterior of valves, radiators, oil coolers, intercoolers, brake caliper housing radiating heat to the air faster.

MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS

What a perfect car should be

EFFORTLESS driving. That's what you get when you sit behind the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz E-class saloon.

The E-class is one of the German automaker's more head-turning models, which debuted five years ago and continues to set the pace in the latest automotive innovations developed by Mercedes engineers and designers. It remains unparalleled for technology safety, design, comfort and equipment.

From the moment you step into the E-class you feel secure and comfortable. Safety is not an issue with the E-class as you would expect in any Mercedes car that comes out of the assembly line. Standard safety amenities include driver and front passenger airbags, front sidebags and window-bags. If there's a front or side collision, they inflate in milliseconds protecting the head and neck from injury. One usually thinks all these safety precautions are just put in to jack up the price-tag of a car. But on the other hand, the fact that you're investing hard-earned money for a car that carries Mercedes' patented tri-star logo means you also want to enjoy driving it for a long, long time. And that means surviving accidents that are often unexpected.

And there lies the beauty of German engineering. The E-Class was designed with the welfare of its occupants in mind. Passive safety systems come as standard fare in any E-Class model. A seat occupancy sensor ensures that the passenger airbag, belt tensioner and side bag are deactivated if the passenger seat is unoccupied.

The safety bodywork of the E-Class has been developed after tough crash tests and numerous experiments. The passenger safety cell, a complex system of sturdy reinforced metals that can withstand extremely strong impacts, gives you protection from all sides. The front and rear are designed to function as crumple zones.

Elegance

The E-240 Elegance is the luxury model in Mercedes E-Class lineup. It is the one that carries the "Elegance" badge on the sides. It has a few more luxury appointments compared to the E-class line and a markedly different approach to functionality compared with the Avantgarde version.

The Elegance combines qualities of both the Classic and the Avantgarde assuming the demeanor of an understated passenger car and a powerful sports saloon.

Inside the E-240 is first-class premium leather upholstery. With interiors that look as if it's been tailor-made to your preferences, you'd relish spending time in this car—traffic or no traffic.

Now why do people like driving this car? For starters it's got a 2597 cc engine with an 18-Valve and V-6 with electronic fuel injection and ignition system. The power generated by this rear-wheel drive can reach 170 hp at 5500 rpm and 240

WHAT/p.B8

The Circuit

M. Schumacher Breaks Grand Prix Record with 52nd Win

Last Sunday at Spa-Francorchamps, the Belgian Grand Prix circuit, Ferrari driver and Shell-fuelled World Champion Michael Schumacher finally achieved one of Formula One's milestones, by becoming the most successful driver of all time. His win takes his career total to 52, one more than the previous holder, Alain Prost. At the same time, Michael won Shell's 200th Grand Prix, a record that confirms Shell's dominance in Formula One for the last fifty years.

Schumacher paid tribute to his team's technical partner, " Shell has always been an important partner. We work closely together on both present and future projects."

Michael led most of the incident-packed race in his F2001 Ferrari, although the eventual race start was some 45 minutes after the scheduled start time following two re-starts, the first caused by pole sitter, Juan-Pablo Montoya, and Heinz-Harald Frentzen stalling at the start, and the second caused by a race-stopping accident. Frentzen's new team mate Luciano Burti hit a tyre wall at high speed. It was a relieved Michael Schumacher who learnt from Bernie Ecclestone that Burti had only suffered concussion and was in a stable condition.

Both Michael and team mate Rubens Barrichello stopped twice during the shortened 36-lap race. Ferrari fuelled and changed the tyres on Michael's car on the tenth lap of the re-start in 9.4 secs and on lap 24 in 7.7 secs respectively. Rubens Barrichello made his first pit stop on lap 9 of the re-start in 9.0 seconds. On lap 18, Barrichello was forced to make his second stop when he ran into a bollard at the Bus Stop and lost his front wing. After running seventh, Barrichello managed to overtake Jordan driver, Jean Alesi, on lap 32 of the 36-lap, shortened race, to claim sixth place and one point for himself and Ferrari.

"It was a day of celebration for Shell as we won our 200th race in the World Championship," said Shell's Motorsport Business Manager- Ian Galliard, "a record that reflects our level of ongoing commitment to the performance of our products over fifty years. Our commitment to victory is as strong as ever and we look forward to continued success with Ferrari this season, and to even better performance in 2002 and beyond. Shell has a long-term commitment to the high-tech laboratory that is the Ferrari F1 team, and this will translate into improved products for our road car customers."

"Many congratulations to everyone in the team who has worked so hard for success. Formula One is one of the most demanding sports in the world, and to compete and win at this level bears testimony to the dedication and hard work of all Ferrari and Shell team members."

Now, here's your chance to witness heart-pounding race action! You are invited to attend the Local Racing Events to be held on various dates and venues. Please refer to the schedule on the sidebar. See you there! (W.I.N.)

2001 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 14 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVER STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	104
COULTHARD	57
BARRICHELLO	48
R. SCHUMACHER	44
HAKKINEN	24
MONTOYA	15

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	152
MCLAREN	81
WILLIAMS	59
SAUBER	30
BAR	16
JORDAN	16

LOCAL RACING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE
DRAG RACING QUARTERMILE 2001 Harbor Center	Sept 8
SHELL SLALOMS SERIES SM Bacoor, Cavite	Sept 16
FORMULA RACES BRC-Formula Speedway	Sept 30
DRAG RACING QUARTERMILE 2001 Harbor Center	Oct 6
FORMULA RACES BRC-Formula Speedway	Oct 21

HELIX
Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

An angry motorist writes

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

I AM glad to note that many parts of the metropolis are being paved. Many also have been paved already; I cite particularly that portion at the Shaw Boulevard Tunnel along Edsa, where I used to absorb sudden jolts because of holes in the dark. They've been patched now. No more bone-jarring jolts.

At Edsa and Quezon Avenue, a traffic jam happens there from Monday to Friday. Even Saturdays. I can understand as I hope you out there also understand.

A flyover (and a tunnel, too?) is being constructed there. It's going to take a little while before the project gets completed. Hopefully, after completion, traffic will be greatly eased in that area.

Meanwhile, we'll have to suffer for quite a while more. As the saying goes, "No pain, no gain."

* * *

The latest F-150 (Lariat) is a real adorable monster. Kids—real kids of as young as 4 years old—love it. I have no explanation for that, except to say that it seems to attract boys who are not even in grade school yet.

The one thing I noticed about the F-150 is, it's not a gas-guzzler unlike its predecessor.

I hope Ford continues to pursue its efforts in building fuel-efficient vehicles.

As to its looks, super. Macho *talaga*. In fact, it's too macho that women seem uncomfortable driving it. But they love riding it.

What do you think, Maricar? And Camille, any word from you?

* * *

Here's our letter of the week:

Dear Al,

I about fell off my chair laughing the other day when I read in the PDI opinion column of Monday Aug. 27th. A reply to your concerns in "Full Tank" regarding the right of motorcyclists to use the so-called expressway. The letter is written by a certain Luis F. Sison who claims to be chair and CEO of the PNCC, that in itself is hilarious as the way the North Expressway is currently being operated it would seem there is no one in charge! Mr. Sison assures you that the PNCC will strictly enforce the guidelines as specified in the DPWH order 123. These people cannot even enforce the existing rules and regulations, how much more can they enforce new rules and regulations. Let us look at some examples.

Smoke belchers not allowed inside tollway! Pedestrians not allowed! No unloading and loading! Vehicles without taillights and defective brakes! Trucks and buses not allowed in left lane except for overtaking!

These are but just a few examples of rules and regulations, which are blatantly violated every hour of the day and night without any action taken by the Pea Brained Highway (Robbers). Sorry Patrolmen! Remember the accident victim robbed by these people a couple of years back!

Is this perhaps the person who recently decided to scrap a perfectly good system using computerized cards to collect the toll and replace it with an antiquated ticket system, which required motorists to state their exit point, which caused terrible jams at Balintawak. Needless to say this system was scrapped after a few days, how much money was wasted on the experiment.

Is this the same Sison who put up notices regarding the speed limits with a minimum speed of 60 kph?

Who ever heard of a tollway with a minimum speed limit, beside the one notice is at a place where you are lucky if you can crawl at 10 kph.

Is this the same Chair and CEO who sends his repair crews out in the pouring rain with wheel barrows and spades to throw asphalt into the moon craters along the tollway?

Even a Grade 1 engineering student knows it is useless to throw asphalt into a hole full of water! Is this the same person who sends out those stupid guys on motorcycles to stand at the hard shoulder with a useless radio in one hand and waving on the traffic with the other hand, at the point where the traffic is already moving! To show the mentality of these motorcycle riding freaks, the other day when I was crawling past one. I rolled down the window and asked him why not do something about the trucks in the left lane, his reply "F___ You!" What a great bunch of Public Servants!

Is it not time the motoring public revolted against this corrupt and incompetent bunch of Hooligans. After all the President of the country was removed by a people's revolt, more recently the head of the SSS was removed by workers' protests.

Let us start the protest by first tearing up the toll coupon before handing it over to those discourteous people at the toll booth. Or better yet, ask all motorists to refuse to pay the toll fee, until that killer road is brought back into proper condition, and competent people are brought in to strictly enforce the rules and regulation.

A third option would be to charge Mr. Sison and his gang of thieves with economic sabotage. How many man hours and lives are lost daily on that road? How many deliveries of goods are delayed? How much of the economy is wasted on repairing damaged vehicles? All because of the incompetence and careless attitude of the PNCC management. One last question for Mr. Sison, where does the millions of pesos collected daily on the tollway go to? Into whose pocket? Lets ask all motorists to put a stop to this treachery once and for all!

Regards
Rob Dix

MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE 2002 SUPER SPORT

Powerful but underrated

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO
AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

IT is, arguably, a most handsome AUV. Or is it an SUV?

Obviously the genius who penned it is a great Volvo and BMW fan as evidenced by the towering rear taillight cluster and the kidney-grille up front. And what could these two radical styling features do for the 2002 Adventure? Well, just jack up sales making it the hottest-selling AUV since it was quietly launched early this year.

With this vehicle, Mitsubishi completely blurs the line between AUV and SUV styling. Though not as sleek and sharp as any of the SUVs it is trying to ape, it does look hot compared with Isuzu's Crosswind and any of the 15 variants of the Toyota Revo.

And by adding this much luxury to a vehicle known for its economy, practicality and utility, the three-diamond carmaker succeeds in making a very desirable AUV. But is it up to speed?

Super wagon

Raymond: Is 140 kph enough speed for you?

Tessa: I didn't mean literally.

Raymond: Oh...sorry...Mitsubishi calls it the Super Family Wagon. I first tested that claim years ago, when I was given a chance to review the previous Super Sport to Caylabne. This new Adventure still has seating for nine with loads of legroom and headroom, even in the rearmost face-to-face benches. I could squeeze in 10 people but that would be masochistic.

Tessa: You can always squeeze in 10 people but they could always scram in no time when one of them lets out a…never mind. Seriously, I think I would commend the Adventure's seats, particularly the seat's height. I get a perfect driving vision like no other SUV, er, AUV can give. Besides, the seats are not too soft, nor too hard. I have to agree with you with the generous legroom but unlike you, I never got a chance to get nine people to squeeze in to see the driving difference and the riding comfort.

Raymond: You won't find me shuttling office people in the Adventure, it is much too decked out for such a utilitarian job. And if I do, I'd probably charge twice as much.

Tessa: Well, I could call the patrol vehicle hotline anytime and have you tracked down on the expressway for overcharging. But that would be masochistic. Anyway, back to business.

Unexpectedly agile

Raymond: It is fascinatingly different from any AUV visually but like others use tried-and-tested rear-wheel drive technologies. A 2.0-liter gasoline engine, much like those from the Galants of the late '80s, is found under the hood. Despite of the taller stance and bouncy rear leaf spring suspension, it delivers a car-like drive in car-like ambience.

Tessa: The brochure says it has multipoint fuel injectors. Does that make it powerful?

Raymond: Yes, and economical, too. Fuel-versus-distance reveals about 9 km to a liter in heavy traffic and 2 kilometers more in long distance driving.

Tessa: But back to that engine power thingie, I just think it is worthwhile to note that except for that little bumpy ride, I was cruising on highways in car-like power. The "zoom" in its engine brags of its power. Also, although you could always disagree, the Adventure Super Sport seems to give more pushing and pulling power than its closest competitor. Yet, our beautiful beast of burden here is obviously underrated.

Raymond: Look at these numbers, maximum power 114 PS at 5,000 rpm. Torque comes in at 165 Nm at a low 3,000 rpm. Coupled to an automatic transmission, the power range and the torque band make it a well-mannered on-road performer. But with this spicy manual, it's a blast!

Tessa: Speed trap coming up!

Raymond: Braking distance is short, but the brakes are really tight and grippy. Sudden braking in less frictionless surfaces would be disastrous. It still holds well and slows down as you'd expect any large, empty AUV—with not much finesse.

Tessa: I didn't expect it to break any speed records, but it's amazing it reached 100 kph in less than 17 seconds. It has ample passing power even on long overtakes. And you timed 60 to 100 in easy 10 seconds.

Raymond: But speed is not the only thing good about this AUV. There are gobs of torque very useful during a really steep hill climb at the Makiling Arts Center. The balance between momentum and acceleration is excellent and the gears are spaced close enough to maximize the engine's output.

Radical SUV styling

Tessa: Polypropylene fender flares, body cladding in an all-around Pajero fashion and the towering taillights a-la CR-V highlight the SUV approach. But I don't like the wheels. Too small, I feel.

Raymond: Even inside, the dash layout and instrumentation copy SUV cues. Wonderful and easy-to-operate "fold-and-tumble" middle seats expand cargo space to cathedral proportions—just like an AUV. A number of configurations are available just by choosing which seat to fold.

There are tons of high-grade plastic around, but the wood trim feels too cold, too fake. Many of the bits and pieces were obviously lifted from existing Mitsubishi models, but that only added to the car-like feel.

Tessa: I really like the fabric seats and door trims. Even the two auxiliary benches were conscientiously designed, taking into consideration seat angle and height, so that even four adults packed in the back will not feel squashed or restrained. Except if they were clones of Danny Ildefonso or EJ Feihl…

Raymond: Now, if they could fit seatbelts in that area—then again, maybe they shouldn't.

Does the 2002 Adventure Super Sport deserve its **9 out of 10 total points** rating? Definitely. Except for the bouncy moments during spirited driving or when roads turn from tarmac to pock-marked, we could find very little fault in it. Besides, everyone who has seen or ridden in it has given it the thumbs up.

MOTORSCOPE

Altis test-drive for the public

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. gives you a chance to get behind the wheel of the all-new Corolla Altis via its public test-drive event. Get to drive the new Corolla Altis at The Fort, Fort Bonifacio Global City on Sept. 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and see for yourself what the fuss is all about. Get to experience the Altis' power with its hi-tech WT-i engine. You can choose to drive the Altis 1.8G with the 1,800-cc IZZ-FE engine that produces a staggering maximum output of 145 hp at 6,000 rpm with maximum torque at a whopping 188 Nm at only 4,200 rpm. Or you can try the Corolla Altis 1.6 variants powered by the 1600cc 1ZZ-FE engine that delivers a maximum output of 116 hp at 6,000 rpm and a class leading torque of 160 Nm at 4,400 rpm. For more information, visit your nearest Toyota dealer or log on to www.toyota.com.ph.

TMA holds bowling tourney

THE TRUCK Manufacturers' Association, an organization of local assemblers of AUVs, LCVs, trucks and buses, recently held a bowling tournament at the Edsa Lanes of Starmall in Mandaluyong. The event is an annual undertaking of the organization's ways and means committee spearheaded by Alex Aspillera of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.The games started slowly but picked up during the third game with Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. taking third place and Francisco Motors Corp., second place. Defending champion Universal Motor Corp. garnered the first place and the highest pin falls after three games. The highest scoring male award was a tie between Romeo San Jose of Francisco Motors Corp. and Danny Navarro of Pilipinas Hino. For females, the highest scoring award was given to Chona Cuayo, also of Pilipinas Hino. The winners in the team category received recognition and cash prizes sponsored by Carryboy, Kenwood, Goodyear and Fujitsu Ten.

Instant cash in Petron promo

PETRON'S "Pump-A-Prize" promo has so far given out P5,000 instant cash prizes to motorists Estellita Chavez, Anchito Candara, Thomas Lazaro III, Carmen Calandog, Jomar Gozon and Melody Astorga. Everyone has until Sept. 30 to join the growing roster of winners. At stake in the raffle draw are a brand-new Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 utility vehicle and round-trip tickets to Bangkok, Thailand. To qualify for the raffle, motorists must complete five stamps in one game card. A single or accumulated purchase worth P300, made at the same station where the card was issued, is equivalent to a new stamp.

Emergency car kit available

HANDYMAN, the "do-it-yourself" hardware store of Robinsons, carries a selection of auto emergency kit such as a pack from Buffalo containing 29 pieces of useful car gadgets and tools. These include 2 booster cables, 2 screwdrivers, a slip joint plier, 3 first-aid bandages, 6 assorted feses and 2 cotton work gloves, a spinner handle, 9 pieces ¼" drive sockets, a tire pressure gauge, PVC tape and a blow molded plastic carrying case. For the emergency car kit of your choice and other motoring essentials, visit any of Handyman's 32 branches nationwide.

Auto trends, motoring update

THE LATEST issues of your favorite automobile and motor sports magazines will be available at the 2001 Philippine Bookfair until Sept. 9 at the 5th level of Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. The magazines are distributed in the country by Emerald Headway Distributors Inc., one of the numerous exhibitors at the book fair.

What a perfect car should be

(From page B7)

Nm at 4500 rpm. One simply needs to try it out to appreciate such a thrill.

Recently introduced is the E-220 CDI with a vastly modified 4-cylinder engine that gives increased output, higher torque performance of 315 Nm and lower consumption at 16 km/liter. Acceleration is at 0-100 kph in 10.4 seconds.

Speedtronic

Managing this workhorse of exceptional engineering is made easy by the E-240's five-speed automatic transmission touch-shift with cruise control and Speedtronic (similar to the system fitted in the A- and the S-class).

This unique feature gives its driver effortless driving pleasure as it adjusts to the driver's temperament and driving style. The transmission system detects when the vehicle is approaching an uphill or downhill slope. The transmission selects the shift points that best suit the driver's habits and attitudes, with the electronic transmission control system helping avoid overrevving by preventing inappropriate downshifts.This ensures that the driver doesn't make unwanted gear-change mistakes.

On the road, the E-240 rides and handles quietly and unassumingly, combining high performance with maximum economy and environmental compatibility. The four-wheel independent suspension system with 3-link axle, McPherson Strut, coil springs and stabilizer bar in front, and multilink, coil springs, and stabilizer bar in rear continues to guarantee a high degree of driving safety and ride comfort.

The ABS (antilock braking system) with the ESP (electronic stability program) is fitted as standard in the E-Class. This senses high pressure on the pedals and automatically applies the full braking power for emergency stops, also helping you control the steering. This ensures that you stay in control of your car, whether on rough, slippery or smooth roads.

Mercedes has always been known as perfectionist when it comes to on-board equipment, and the audio system is no exception. The standard Mercedes- Benz Audio 10, 6-disc CD changer and 8-speaker sound system, provides unbeatable sound quality, programmable from the multifunction steering wheel.

An aerial antenna is integrated into the rear window and standard 6-disc CD changer is fitted in the boot. Flush fitting loudspeaker covers contribute to the refined appearance.

Exterior

While you may agree that the view from the driver's seat is superb, one can't argue that the view from the outside is just as appealing.

A dynamic front gives the E-Class a sporty character. Design features like the side indicators, which are now integrated in the side-view mirrors, make the clear lines of the E-Class even more unmistakable.

The E-Class has a drag coefficient figure of only 0.29 cd—one of the best figures for its class.

The most significant feature of the E-Class compared to other Mercedes vehicles is its "face." The E-Class face carries two distinctive pairs of elliptical headlights. The E-240 Elegance headlamps come with a high-pressure cleaning system. This feature is standard on the E-55 AMG and optional on the Classic. LED turn signals are now incorporated in the exterior rearview mirrors.

The rear high-gloss lights carry an aero lens design while the high-level third brake lamp provides a balance to the overall design.

Smooth, comforting, secure and superior, the E-Class is everything Mercedes envisioned a perfect car to be. It carries the latest Mercedes technology packaged in a sporty and dynamic look—the perfect fusion of attractiveness, intelligence and high-quality design.

"Mercedes Benz is a trademark of DaimlerChrysler."

What used to be inconceivable is now a reality.

The Mercedes-Benz E220 CDI

Elegance. Power. Economy.

▸ The Mercedes-Benz E220 CDI is equipped with the latest Commonrail Direct injection technology. Pioneered by Mercedes-Benz, the CDI principle involves a constant high pressure pump to cylinders resulting in increased horsepower and a maximum torque of 315 Nm at 1800-2600 rpm with better mileage, while acceleration is at 0-100 kph in 10.4 seconds.

▸ Fuel consumption is much lower than other vehicles in the luxury segment at 16 kms./liter, a plus factor in these times of increasing gasoline prices. Yet, ignition is much quieter, and very low emissions by European standards is achieved with an efficient combustion process which reduces nitrogen oxide effusion.

▸ And with power and economy is the E220 CDI's matchless exterior and interior elegance, with an excellent on-board atmosphere.

▸ Test drive the E220 CDI and find out why you may want to take it home after the experience.

Mercedes-Benz
The future of the automobile

Commercial Motors Corp. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City Tel 641-9866; 641-9867; 6412286; 641-2290 Fax 641-7367; 641-2287 • BRANCHES • Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City Tel (08822) 732809 Mc Briones Highway, Bo. Maguikay, Mandaue City Tel (032) 345-1260 Fax (032) 346-2772 • Km 11, Sasa, Davao City Tel (082) 235-2495 Fax (082) 235-2494 • McArthur Highway, Calasiao, Pangasinan Tel (075) 517-2513; (075) 517-5317 Telefax (075) 522-0783 • DEALERS • CATS Motors EDSA, Greenhills Tel 723-5808 to 12 Fax 726-7741 • CATS Motors-Alabang, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas Tel 872-3768 ; Fax 872-5186 EUROPHIL Motors Corp. 5566 South Superhiway cor. Finlandia St., Makati City Tel 844-3438; 844-6794 • COMMERCIAL Auto Sales Service Corp. 2256 Pasong Tamo cor. EDSA, Makati City Tel 840-4396; 840-4397 Fax 812-3622 • TRANSCOR Motors, Inc. Araneta St., Singcang, Bacolod City Tel (034) 433-0331; (034) 435-0221 to 23 Fax (034) 433-0330 • TRANSCOR Motors, Inc. Sen. Benigno Aquino Ave. (Diversion Rd.) Iloilo City Tel (033) 320-0952; (033) 320-0567 Fax (033) 320-0536 • AUTOLAND Sales 1616 Quezon Ave., Quezon City Tel 922-6925; 928-2532 Telefax 922-3108 • AUTOLAND Sales (Dau) Pampanga Tel (045) 332-3342; (045) 332-3343 Telefax (045) 332-3341

Classified Advertising Division
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎912 9008 11 Fax 912-9011
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎421 1420 ☎ 421 0343 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6377008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. ANTONIO R. ROBLES, JR.

April 25, 1929 — September 5, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator after a full life of 72 years.

His bereaved wife **REMY**; children **CONNIE** and **MEL**, **TONTON** and **ARLENE**, **WILLIE** and **DEL**, **SUSAN** and **EDMON**, **NANETTE** and **RODEL**, **GILDA** and **ADO**, **DENNIS** and **EDELYN**, **SONIA** and **ERIC**, **AYEEN** and **RONALD**; grandchildren, great grandchild, brothers, sisters and relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 20 Bonifacio St., Sariaya, Quezon.

Interment will be announced later.

Res. (Tel. (042) 525-8926)

AGAPITO G. TAGAYSAY

March 16, 1911 - September 4, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator after a full life of 90 years.

His loving wife **Luisa Ongcapin Tagaysay** (†); children **Hector** and **Armine Antonio**, **Ma. Zona**, **Josefa**, **Carmelita** and **Reynaldo Geronimo**, and **Cecilia**; grandchildren **Patricia** and **Alfonso**, **Rachel** and **Sarah**; great granddaughter **Ma. Angela**, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, in Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Masses are celebrated nightly at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 8, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City, immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Requiem at the Christ the King Church.

In lieu of flowers, we would appreciate gifts to Missionaries of Charity's "Tahanan" (Mother Teresa's home for abandoned elderly).

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

"You will live in our hearts and our minds. Permanently lodged. Immovable as the mountain of your devotion and commitment to family and country. Deep and wide as the basin of your heart that contains your innumerable acts of kindness, selflessness, and service to the people. Long and far-reaching as the many lives that you have touched with the brilliance of your love and generosity of spirit. Luminous as the faith you carry like a torch to light the way of the downtrodden, oppressed and marginalized.

You were our most wonderful father and devoted husband, a caring brother-in-law and uncle. You were also our committed comrade, international solidarity advocate and companion in our journey towards Shalom.

Beloved, we now send you with hugs, kisses and well wishes back to the embrace of God who brought you into our lives. We will always cherish the precious time you were with us."

ROMULO DAY-OAN PERALTA

Born July 30, 1941, passed away September 2, 2001

We—his life partner and true love, Carmen, "three angels," Daphne, Athena and Proserpine, "one and only" Raj, and a whole brood of sisters- and brothers-in-law, cousins, nephews and nieces—invite all and everyone to remember and celebrate his life of love, faith and service. Along with his friends and colleagues, we will hold commemorative rites and share memories in his honor on **Saturday, September 8, 2001 at 8:30 a.m.** at the NCUC-UCCP at Times St. cor. EDSA, where he lies in state. Interment will follow at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights.

LILIA CANILON ATA

of Makati City & Temple City, CA, USA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 30, 2001 in South El Monte, CA, at the age of 75.

She is survived by her husband **Victorio**; children & children-in-law **Fanny Ata Mercado**, **Joe & Merle Ramos Ata**, **Loreto Ata**, **Romulo & Ruby Diaz Ata**, **Gil & Milagros Ata Noriel**, and **Joey & Cora Ata Sarte**; 15 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Interment will take place on Thursday, September 6, 2001 in Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Luke's Catholic Church, Temple City.

Please include in your prayers the eternal repose of her soul.

AMADO ZUÑO TRIVIÑO

Composer/Arranger/Pianist
A devoted husband and father

Died August 30, 2001.

Born on September 13, 1931 in Rosario, Batangas as the eldest in a musically inclined family. His career spanned four decades in the music and entertainment industry.

He is survived by his wife **Marceliana**; and four daughters **Ceres Elisa**, **Cherrie**, **Frenchie** & **Beng**.

The Mass will be held prior to interment at 3:00 p.m. at San Martin De Porres Church in Andrea I, Bacoor, Cavite on Thursday, September 6, 2001.

Interment will follow at Angelus Eternal Garden in Bacoor, Cavite.

BEN HUR TEODORO SALCEDO BALBOA

1929-2001

HAS FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AND NOW MOVES ON AHEAD OF US TO FINALLY JOIN HIS WIFE (**VIDA ARANETA**) AND SONS (**EDWARDO AND TED-TED**) AND ALL OUR ANCESTORS IN THE WARM EMBRACE OF THE FATHER.

HE SHALL LIE IN STATE AT THE MOUNT CARMEL SHRINE IN QUEZON CITY ON THURSDAY 06 SEPTEMBER UNTIL SATURDAY 08 SEPTEMBER.

INTERMENT WILL BE AT 12 NOON ON SUNDAY, 09 SEPTEMBER 2001, AT THE LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK, MARIKINA AFTER THE 10 o'clock MASS.

WE INVITE HIS SAN BEDA AND UP CLASSMATES, HIS SIGMA RHO, UPSILON AND APACHE BROTHERS, AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO KNOW AND LOVE HIM, TO REMEMBER BEN HUR FOR HIS GREAT WIT AND HUMOUR, INTELLECT AND SENSE OF JUSTICE, AND TO INCLUDE HIM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

HE WOULD MUCH RATHER THAT YOU OMIT SENDING FLOWERS AND INSTEAD DONATE TO THE UP LAW ALUMNI FOUNDATION IN THE NAME OF BEN HUR BALBOA CLASS '53.

For donations, please call Ms. Myrna Feliciano Tel. No. 929-6785.

Please turn to page B5 for other Obituaries.

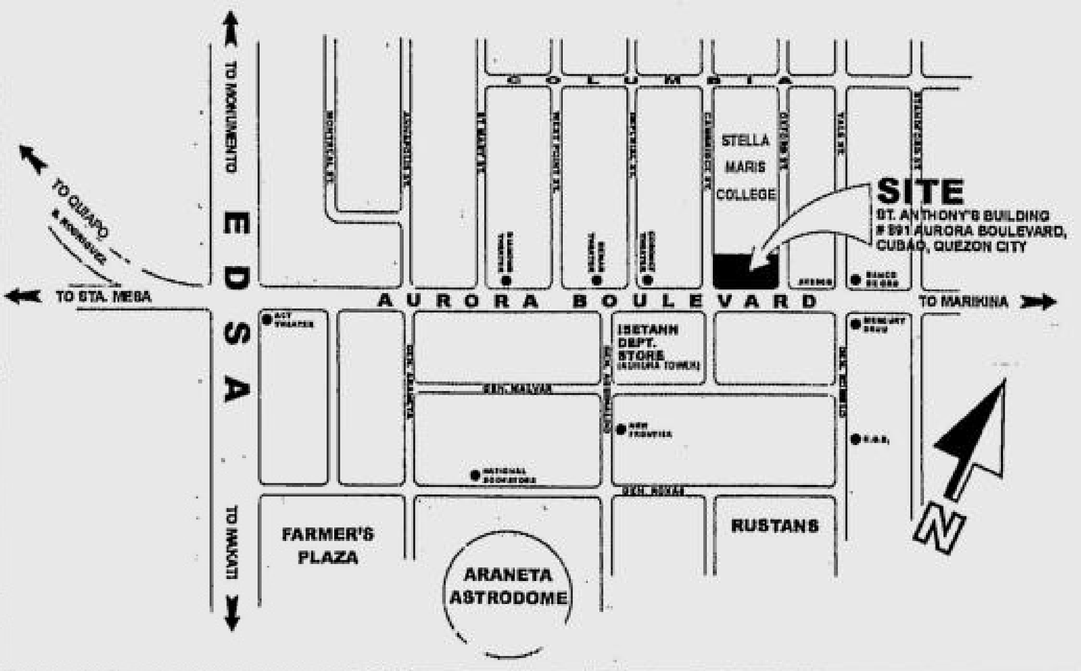
DR. ALFREDO L. ALIASAS

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 1, 2001 at the age of 65 in CA, USA

His beloved wife **Nenita F. Aliasas**; children **Marisel & Morris**, **Norman**, **Lubelle & Moi**, **Lynette & Edwin**, **Ellen & Boy**, **John & Marie**; grandchildren, brothers, sisters, in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains will be brought home to the Phils. and will lie in state at his residence in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya from Sunday, September 9, 2001 to Friday, September 14, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001, at the Solano Catholic Cemetery after the 7:30 a.m. Mass.



INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

For inquiries, please call
421-1420 or 421-0343

Our Dearly Beloved

Salud (Inching) Landas Hernandez

Of Bacoor, Cavite

*Peacefully joined her husband **Hermenegildo Sr.** and her son **Hermenegildo Jr.** in the Grace and Goodness of Our Lord last September 1, 2001 at the age of 98.*

Her children **Leonardo & Lucy Bernardo**, **Maria Luisa**, **Zenaida & Primo Manlansing**, **Hermenegildo Jr.** (†) **& Karen Moore**, **Emilie & Darwin Alquiros**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in 24 Evangelista Rd., Poblacion, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 9, 2001 at the Bacoor Memorial Garden after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at the Philippine Independent Church, Bacoor, Cavite.

HOME LOAN

PAY LESS INTEREST!

LIMITED OFFER

MADNESS DAY

On September 8, slash up to

P1,000,000

off your home loan.

Book your appointment for HSBC's Home Loan Madness Day at the new Greenhills and Quezon City branches of HSBC.

Whether you are looking for a new home loan or simply searching for a better deal on your existing home loan, come to HSBC's Home Loan Madness Day on Saturday, 8 September 2001, and find out how you can save the maddest amounts of money! Now, you have two locations to choose from, pick the one closest to you: the new HSBC Savings Bank Greenhills branch and the HSBC Quezon City branch. HSBC's Home Loan Advisors will be there – just for that day – to provide you with free advice on your home loan. You have nothing to lose. Let them show you how you can significantly reduce your interest payments using our Advanced Home Loan Simulator. Allow them to tailor a home loan* that's perfectly suited for your needs and your budget. Enjoy free food, entertainment and parking as well. Call 878-5151 now to find out more about the Home Loan Madness Day. A lifetime's worth of savings can be yours.

*Minimum loan amount is P700,000. Maximum is P20 million.

Hurry! Limited slots available. Set your appointment for
HSBC's Home Loan Madness Day by calling 878-5151.

HSBC

YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

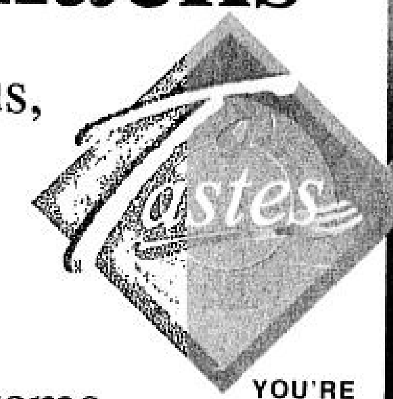
Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR E-MAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

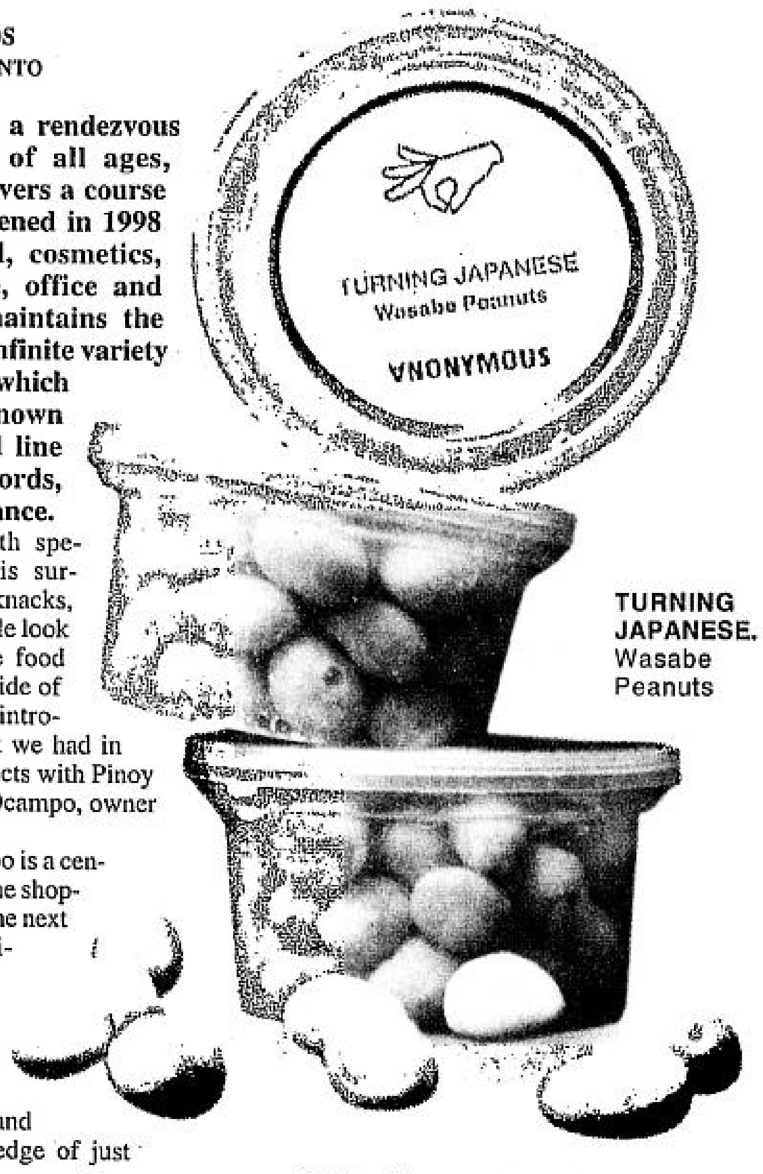
Fun mix of fashion and snacks

At Anonymous, where comestibles share space with fashion items, Ricco Ocampo promotes the cause of Pinoy food

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto



ANONYMOUS, a rendezvous for shoppers of all ages, offers snack lovers a course on retail therapy. Opened in 1998 with fashion apparel, cosmetics, toiletries, houseware, office and school supplies, it maintains the same commitment to infinite variety and affordability for which the store has been known for. Last year, a food line was added. In other words, nothing was left to chance.



TURNING JAPANESE. Wasabe Peanuts

A shelf crammed with specialized food products is surrounded by fashion knickknacks, giving off that unmistakable look of a versatile shop. "The food line is about the Filipino side of Anonymous. When we introduced this last year, what we had in mind was to present products with Pinoy ingredients," says Ricco Ocampo, owner of Anonymous.

Pampango-born Ocampo is a central personality in Philippine shopping. His unerring eye for the next big thing and enviable position as one of the country's most influential fashion and food entrepreneurs have placed his stores (The Black Shop, Fish, i2i, Mix, Kitchen and Mangan) on the cutting edge of just about every trend.

By featuring food items at Anonymous, Ocampo salutes the Filipino as culinary artist and our food as a distinct and valuable addition to the world of fine cooking.

"Since we started the food line, businessmen from all over the Philippines have been visiting my office every week. These are people engaged in small businesses whom I want to support. Marginwise, our food line is not that big so I'm encouraging fellow businessmen to put their products at our stores," Ocampo says.

Emotional trigger

For Ocampo, food is an emotional trigger to things trapped in memory—our likes and dislikes that gnaw and never quite outgrow.

Starting with 10 products such as *pili* from Bicol, *pulvoron* from Pampanga and bottled sardines from Zamboanga, Anonymous now sells 40 food items in its 48 outlets. "Most of these are my favorites which I grew up with and remind me of my childhood. Some are used in the preparation of Kitchen's dishes," Ocampo says.

Such affordable and delightful treats with interesting names come in simple packages with nuggets of information about each item. On The Chosen Few Crispy Pilinuts pack, for instance, a trivia on nuts says, "Nuts were once so scarce and rare that only royalty was allowed to eat them."

On Your Honey or Your Life Honeyed Tamarind: "Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archeologists and found edible."

On Burnt to a Crisp Shing-a-Ling: "Roasting a pig was discovered accidentally by a man whose house burned down while his pet pig was inside. As he was carrying the carcass of the pig

FUN/ p.C3

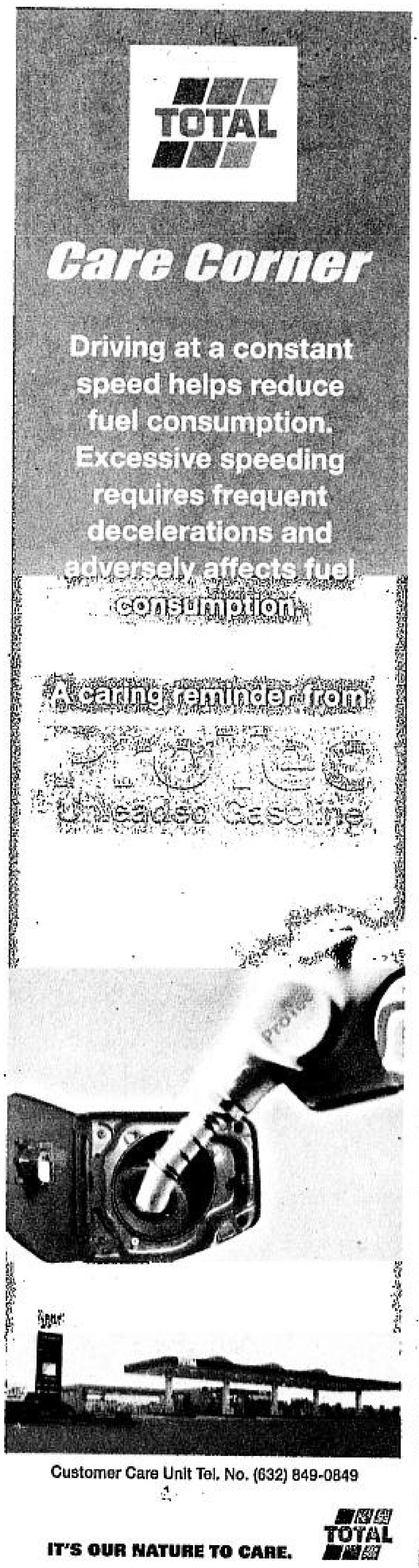
YOU'RE FRIED. (From left) Crispy Dilis Teriyaki, Fried Dilis and Spicy Crunchy Garlic

ALL CRACKED UP. Chicharon

POP IT UP. Caramel Popcorn

DELICIOUS
LECHON
Australian Roast Calf*
U.S. Roast Turkey w/ Stuffing
Australian Lamb*
Lechon Baboy
Imported Roast Peking Duck
*Roast On The Spot.
We cater within your budget
Call Aurelio's Catering
Tel. No. 726-7321 or 726-9329
Cocktails, Wedding, Children Menu available

BOWL-ALL-YOU-CAN
Just bowl by the hour in a lane and play as many games as you can.
Valid from opening to 5 pm only, Mondays to Fridays excluding holidays. Excess time will be charged accordingly.
Promo runs from July 15 to September 30, 2001
SM BOWLING CENTER
NORTHEDSA • MEGAMALL • CEBU
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2097, Series of 2000


TOTAL
Care Corner
Driving at a constant speed helps reduce fuel consumption. Excessive speeding requires frequent decelerations and adversely affects fuel consumption.
A caring reminder from
Protec
Unleaded Gasoline
Customer Care Unit Tel. No. (632) 849-0849
IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE.
TOTAL

Get That Sexy Marie-France Figure!

Start having a slimmer shape the Marie-France way with this special offer:

Enroll now and get
2 FREE
Plasti-Dermi Treatments
until Sept. 8, 2001 only!

Plasti-Dermi Treatment (PDT) is Marie-France's **"Non-Surgical Liposuction"** method to reduce excess fat without any risk or discomfort to your health or your body. It detaches trapped fat cells within your body's tissues to help eliminate excess fat naturally. Your figure is re-sculpted safely for an overall slimmer, smoother look.

Being slim and staying sexy is easy only at Marie-France. Call now and take advantage of this opportunity right away!

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France
Bodyline International®

NOW OPEN
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Consultations are done in private and kept confidential. All treatments are done in hygienic and private cubicles and handled professionally by trained nurses with the medical supervision of our doctors.

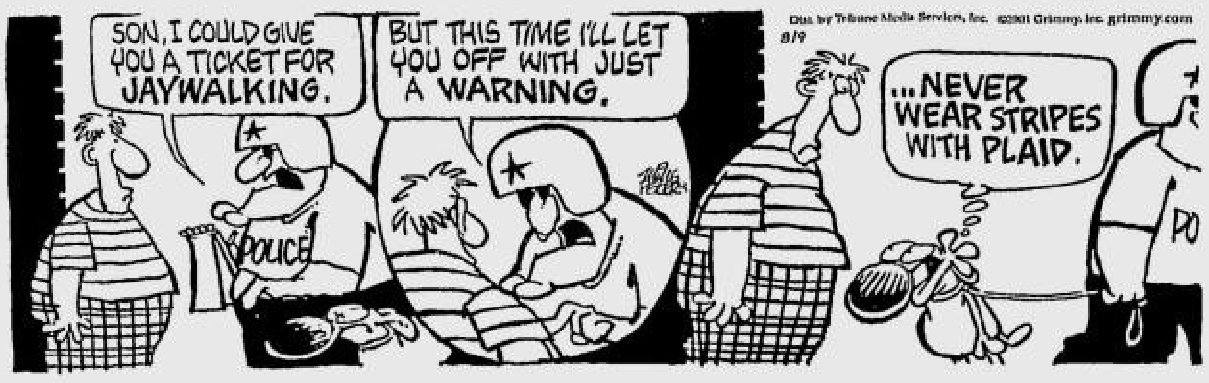
NOW OPEN

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-2563	687-1216	372-6635	242-2187	809-9619	534-5898	920-8021	961-2981/91	233-7637
892-7631/32	687-1218	372-6636	242-2191	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639
812-0472 • 812-0510	638 3028	410-3723 • 410 3724	243-0047 • 243-0049	842-4633 • 842-5887	717-0071 • 717-0072	920-7675	Dan's Marketing Bldg.,	233-7641
Solid Mills Bldg.,	Robinsons Equitable	Cador Executive Bldg.,	Federal Tower Bldg.,	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.,	Sunshine Square	Q Plaza,	McArthur Highway,	Keppel Centre,
Dela Rosa St.	Tower, ADB Ave.	Timog Ave.	Dasmariñas St.	Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Plaza	Congressional Ave.	San Fernando	Cebu City

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2810 Series of 2001
NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

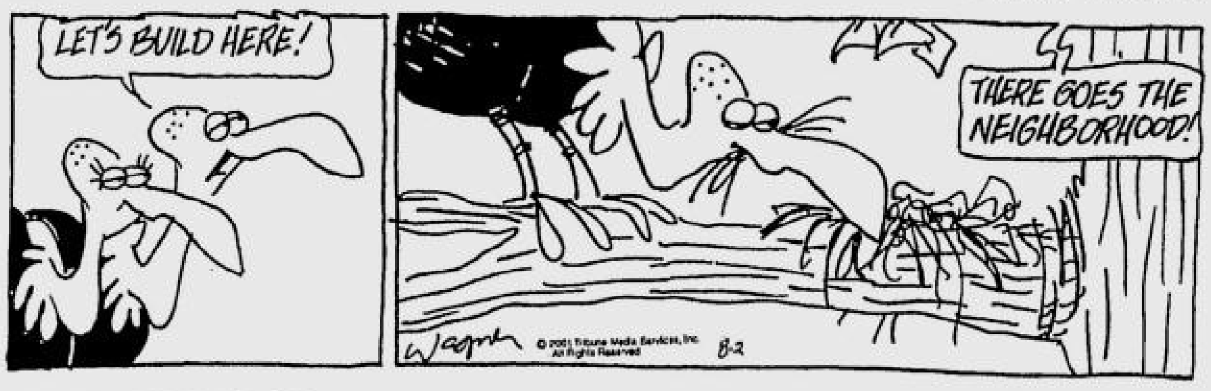
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SON, I COULD GIVE YOU A TICKET FOR JAYWALKING.
POLICE
BUT THIS TIME I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH JUST A WARNING.
...NEVER WEAR STRIPES WITH PLAID.
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
8/9

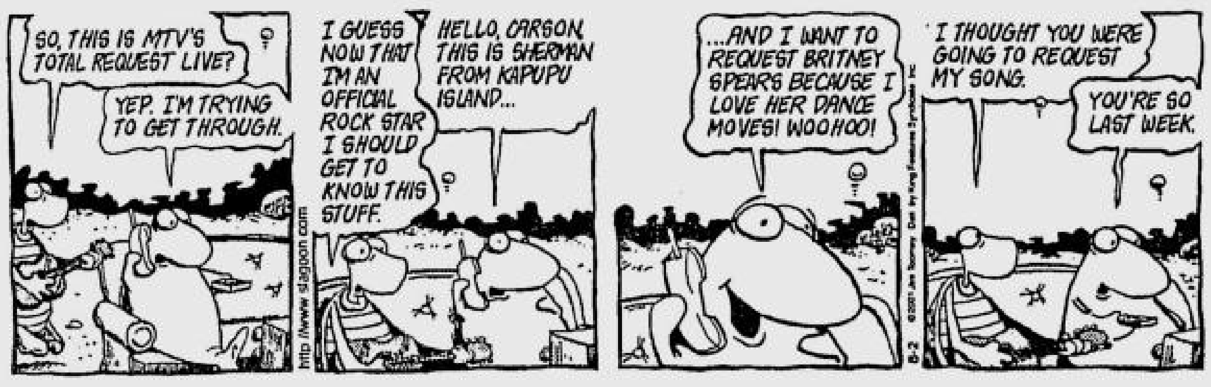
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


LET'S BUILD HERE!
THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
Wagner
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
8-2

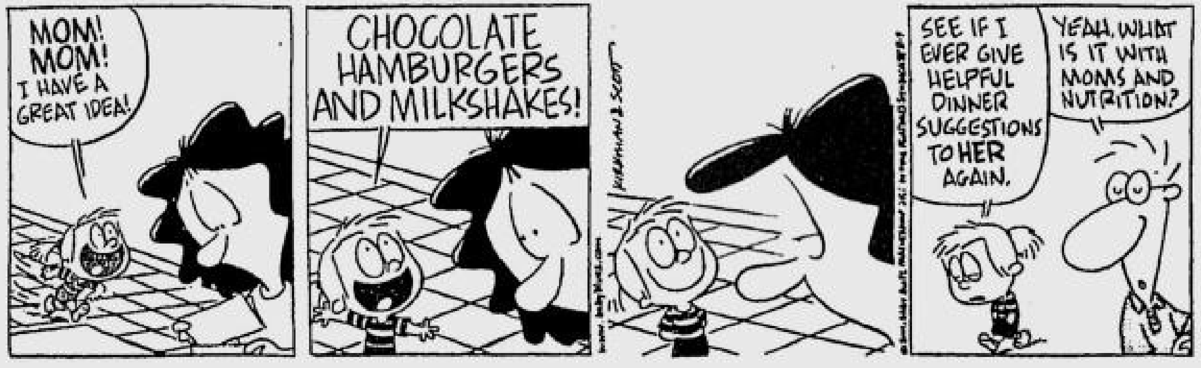
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, THIS IS MTV'S TOTAL REQUEST LIVE?
YEP. I'M TRYING TO GET THROUGH.
http://www.slagoon.com
I GUESS NOW THAT I'M AN OFFICIAL ROCK STAR I SHOULD GET TO KNOW THIS STUFF.
HELLO, CARSON, THIS IS SHERMAN FROM KAPUPU ISLAND...
...AND I WANT TO REQUEST BRITNEY SPEARS BECAUSE I LOVE HER DANCE MOVES! WOOHOO!
© 2001 Jim Toomey. Dist. by King Features Syndicate Inc.
8-2
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO REQUEST MY SONG.
YOU'RE SO LAST WEEK.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM! MOM! I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!
CHOCOLATE HAMBURGERS AND MILKSHAKES!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
SEE IF I EVER GIVE HELPFUL DINNER SUGGESTIONS TO HER AGAIN.
YEAH, WHAT IS IT WITH MOMS AND NUTRITION?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jane Curtin, Mark Chesnutt, Swoosie Kurtz, Rosie Perez, Jeff Foxworthy, Michael Winslow, Foxy Brown

Happy Birthday: It's time to start relying on others to help you reach your goals. Self-sufficiency is fine; but outside input can often lead to slightly different results. You have the drive, but be prepared for obstacles. Your numbers: 6, 13, 22, 25, 39, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become involved in other people's secret affairs. Problems with in-laws or relatives will cause friction with your mate. You will have to be extremely open about your feelings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your moneymaking ideas will be lucrative. Talk to relatives and friends about your intentions. Travel will be beneficial but costly. Protect ideas legally before presenting them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Involvement in joint ventures or financial or contractual matters will end in disaster. Read the fine print and check into the background of those urging you to invest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Travel for business or pleasure will be to your advantage. Get involved in mentally stimulating events. Your talents will surface, and hobbies can be taken to higher levels.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Organize your day well. An ability to delegate jobs will help you complete everything on time. Here is your chance to shine. You belong in the limelight, so be prepared to make your debut.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll want to spend some time alone. Stress and worry will cause fatigue. It's time to kick off those shoes and relax. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Disharmony will be upsetting. Don't let someone you live with ruin your plans. Visit friends; you need someone to talk to. Don't let your mate put the onus on you; it takes two to tango.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deception and underhandedness at work are likely. Stay alert for disconcerting news. Those you least expect may be behind the rumors spreading like wildfire.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're full of energy, so you'd better find something to do. Outdoor activities will be favored. If you can spend a little time in the country, you'll be ready to conquer the world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let someone you live with ruin your day or twist things around. Be honest. You can only do so much, and after that, you'll have to see what happens.

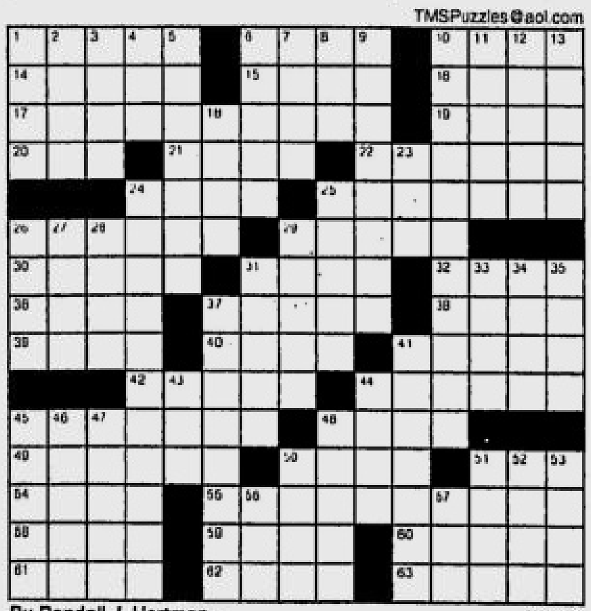
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look into a way to implement some of your innovative ideas. Talk to those who may be interested in backing your plans or becoming a partner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Moneymaking inventions will be good, but untrustworthy acquaintances may be quick to steal your ideas if you are too open about them. Mum's the word.

Birthday Baby: You're highly energized and will be into everything and eager to conquer your world. You are motivated, challenging and programmed to be successful, outgoing and in the spotlight.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA
7/23/01

ACROSS
1 Plus item
6 Opposing
10 "__ the night before..."
14 Model Campbell
15 Peruse
16 Latvian port
17 Victorious
19 False god
20 Trouble
21 Zeno of __
22 Accompany
24 Junket
25 Highway without tolls
26 Son of Daedalus
29 Less coarse
30 Postulate
31 Lavish party
32 Hole-makers
36 In __ (in position)
37 Watery porridge
38 Implement
39 NFL kicker Jason
40 "__ She Sweet"
41 Large, striped antelope
42 Pat's "Wheel of Fortune" partner
44 Walk stealthily
45 Trimmings
48 Entreats
49 Commences
50 Actress Armstrong
51 Attila follower
54 Where most of us are?
55 Ironman competitor
58 Latvian
59 Merit
60 Edmonton pro
61 Buddy, Down Under
62 Beatty film
63 Relative speed

DOWN
1 Feature similar to a pilaster
2 Ganges garb
3 Dirt
4 Ostrich kin
5 Break in the action
6 "My Name Is __ Lev"
7 Final Four letters
8 Light brown
9 Part of the IRS
10 Cretaceous dinosaur
11 John Irving's "A __ for One Year"
12 Where Aesop shopped?
13 Like sailor's stories?
18 Extra
23 Understand
24 Three-person power group
25 Choice cut
26 __ dixit
27 Wire spiral
28 Cinema canine
29 Biologist's concern
31 Broad smiles
33 Refuses to
34 Trademark
35 Blackthorn
37 Career criminal
41 Fat cat
43 Barbecue buttinsky
44 Midterm or final
45 Hymn of praise
46 Confused
47 Singer Bonnie
48 Spill the __
50 Chelsea chick
51 Tiller
52 Sch. on the Rio Grande
53 Stout's Wolfe
56 "Norma __"
57 Prevaricate

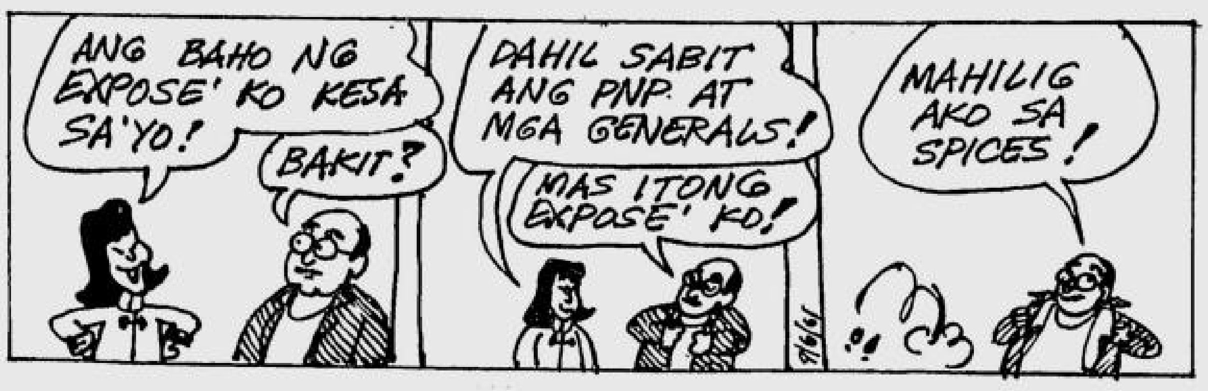
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	E	R	U	S	E	S		C	E	A	S	I	N	G
E	L	E	M	E	N	T		A	R	S	E	N	I	O
R	E	G	A	T	T	A		M	A	I	D	E	N	S
I	V	E		T	E	N	S	E		S	E	X	E	S
D	A	N	D	E	R		E	L	M		R	I	P	E
O	T	T	E	R	S		P	L	A	N		L	I	T
T	E	S	T			M	A	I	N	E	V	E	N	T
			E	S	P	E	R	A	N	T	O			
U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	S			I	B	E	X
S	E	E		W	A	L	T		P	A	L	E	L	Y
E	R	R	S		T	O	O		O	S	A	G	E	S
L	I	M	I	T		W	R	A	T	H		O	C	T
E	M	U	L	A	T	E		P	I	C	A	N	T	E
S	E	D	A	T	E	S		S	O	A	P	I	E	R
S	E	A	S	A	L	T		E	N	N	E	A	D	S

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.
7/23/01

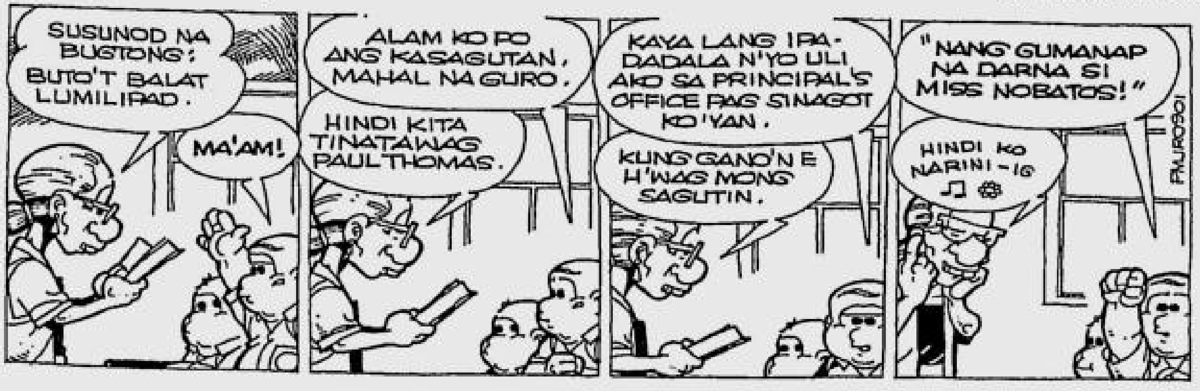
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG BAHO NG EXPOSE' KO KESA SA'YO!
BAKIT?
DAHIL SABIT ANG PNP AT MGA GENERALS!
MAS ITONG EXPOSE' KO!
9/6/01
MAHILIG AKO SA SPICES!

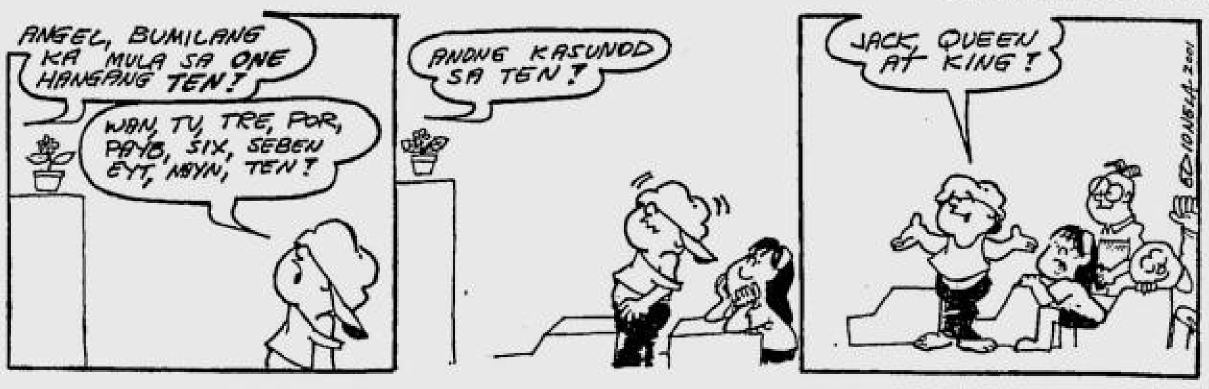
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SUSUNOD NA BUGTONG: BUTO'T BALAT LUMILIPAD.
MA'AM!
ALAM KO PO ANG KASAGUTAN, MAHAL NA GURO.
HINDI KITA TINATAWAG PAUL THOMAS.
KAYA LANG IPA-DADALA N'YO ULI AKO SA PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE PAG SINAGOT KO 'YAN.
KUNG GANO'N E H'WAG MONG SAGUTIN.
"NANG GUMANAP NA DARNA SI MISS NOBATOS!"
HINDI KO NARINI-IG ♫ ❁

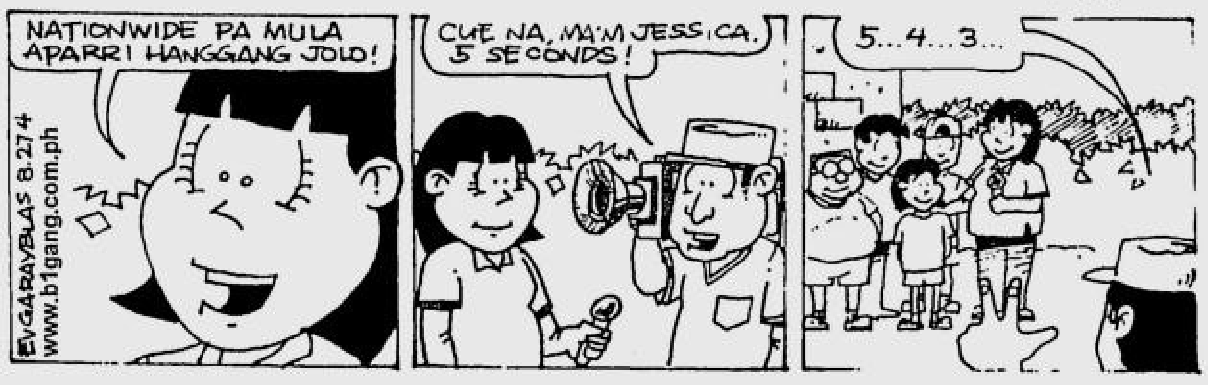
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, BUMILANG KA MULA SA ONE HANGANG TEN!
WAN, TU, TRE, POR, PAYB, SIX, SEBEN EYT, NAYN, TEN!
ANONG KASUNOD SA TEN?
JACK, QUEEN AT KING!
EDIONELA 2001

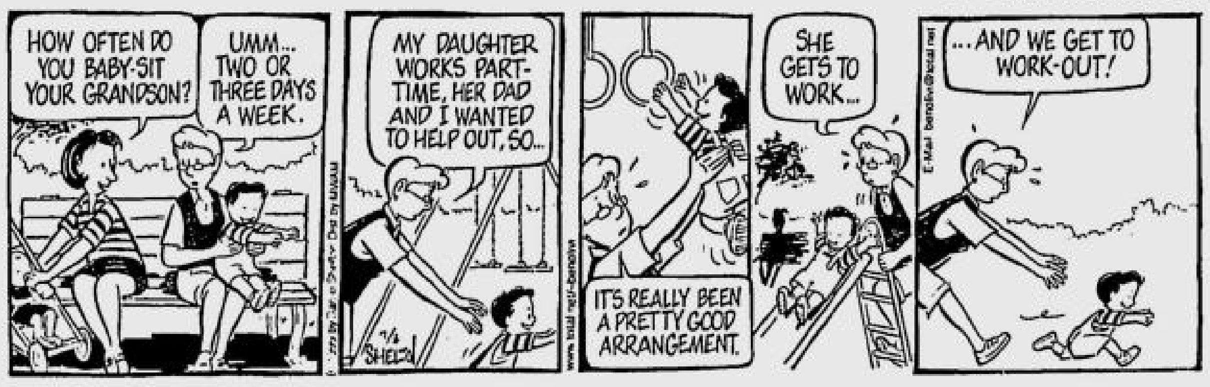
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NATIONWIDE PA MULA APARRI HANGGANG JOLO!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.27 4
www.b1gang.com.ph
CUE NA, MA'M JESSICA. 5 SECONDS!
5...4...3...

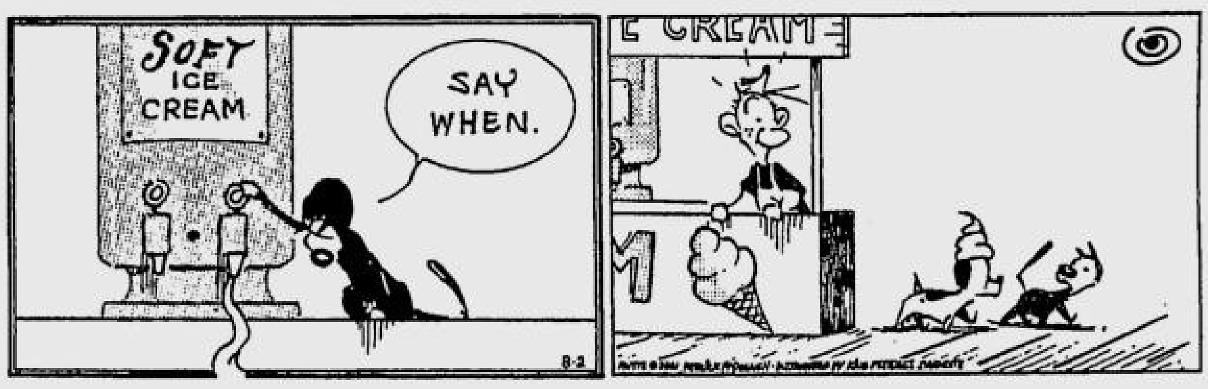
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW OFTEN DO YOU BABY-SIT YOUR GRANDSON?
UMM... TWO OR THREE DAYS A WEEK.
MY DAUGHTER WORKS PART-TIME, HER DAD AND I WANTED TO HELP OUT, SO...
SHELTON
IT'S REALLY BEEN A PRETTY GOOD ARRANGEMENT.
SHE GETS TO WORK...
...AND WE GET TO WORK-OUT!

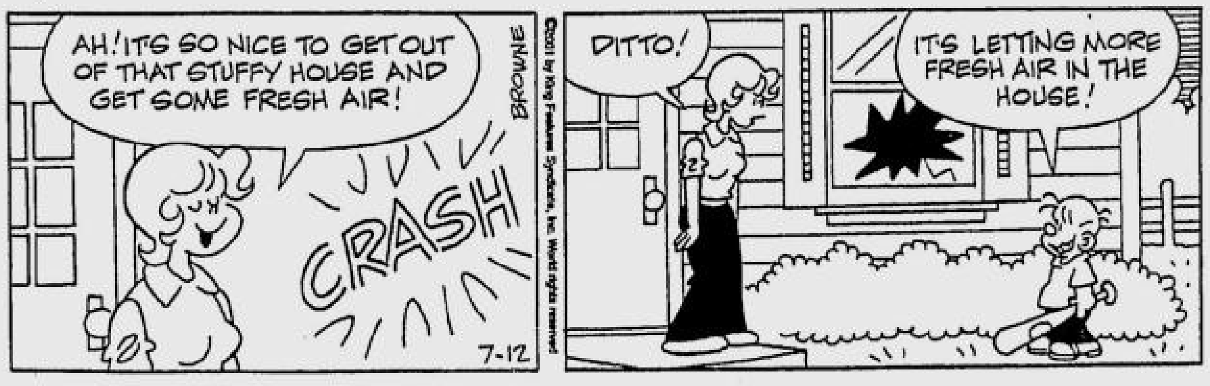
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SOFT ICE CREAM
SAY WHEN.
8-2
E CREAM

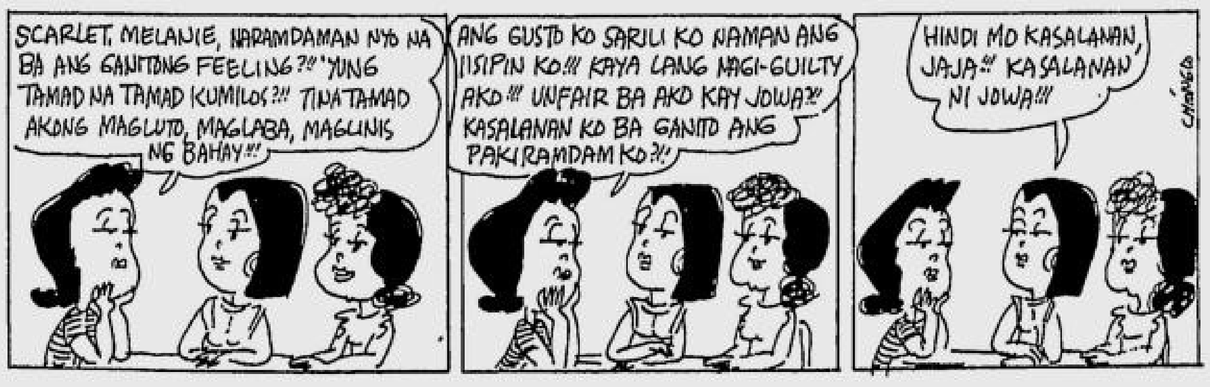
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


AH! IT'S SO NICE TO GET OUT OF THAT STUFFY HOUSE AND GET SOME FRESH AIR!
CRASH
BROWNE
7-12
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
DITTO!
IT'S LETTING MORE FRESH AIR IN THE HOUSE!

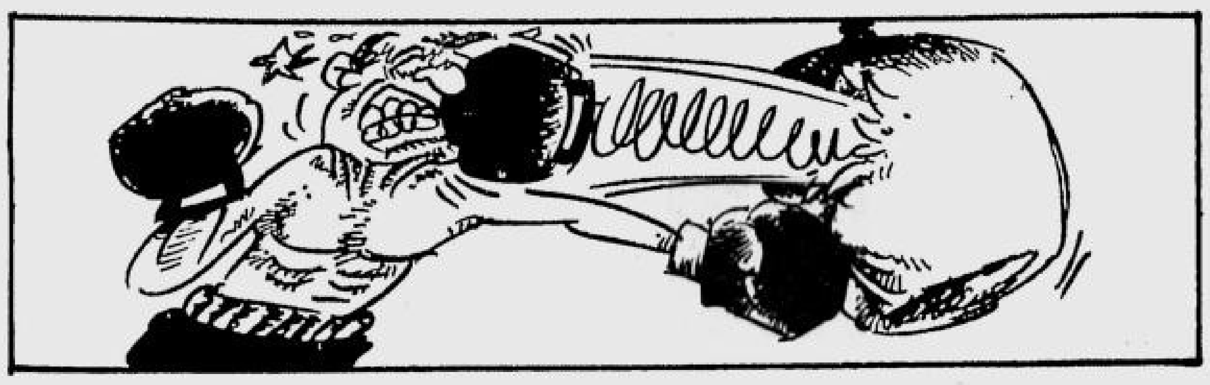
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, MELANIE, NARAMDAMAN NYO NA BA ANG GANITONG FEELING?!! 'YUNG TAMAD NA TAMAD KUMILOS?!! TINATAMAD AKONG MAGLUTO, MAGLABA, MAGLINIS NG BAHAY!!!
ANG GUSTO KO SARILI KO NAMAN ANG IISIPIN KO!!! KAYA LANG NAGI-GUILTY AKO!!! UNFAIR BA AKO KAY JOWA?!! KASALANAN KO BA GANITO ANG PAKIRAMDAM KO?!!
HINDI MO KASALANAN, JAJA!!! KASALANAN NI JOWA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



VNONYMOUS
SOME LIKE IT HOT!
VNONYMOUS
FISH OUT OF WATER!
Spicy Tuyo
VNONYMOUS
PACKING HEAT
Regular Spice Sardines
EASY OPEN CAP

SOME LIKE IT HOT. (From left) Spicy Bangus, Spicy Tuyo and Regular Spice Sardines

Burnt to a Crisp
Your Honey or Your Life
Honeyed Tamarind
12 pcs
Monkey See, Monkey Do
Banana Chips
100 grams
VNONYMOUS

DELIGHTFUL TREATS. (From left) Shing-a-Ling, Honeyed Tamarind and Banana Chips

Fun mix of fashion and snacks

(From page C1)

to be buried, he licked his fingers dry of the juice and found that it tasted good."

"The packaging and naming of these items are done by an in-house staff. In terms of prices, our products are competitive compared to those sold in groceries and supermarkets but the quality is much better because they're personalized and have no preservatives," Ocampo says.

The list includes Spicy Bangus and Tuyo, Regular and Spicy Spanish Sardines, Chili Garlic in Oil, Garlic in Oil, Peanuts with Garlic, Wasabe Nuts, Pulvoron (crunch time and choco crumble), Garlic Coated Peanuts (spicy and regular), Dilis Teriyaki, Banana Chips, Camote Chips, Shing-a-Ling, Camachile Cookies, Popcorn, Chicharon, Honeyed Tamarind, Crispy and Salted Pili Nuts, Coated Nuts (spicy, salted/plain and garlic), Fried Dilis, Turones de Mani, Garlic Chips, Crunchy Garlic (spicy and regular), Onion Shallots (regular and spicy), Uraro, Choco Chip Cookies, Mineral Water, Red and White wines.

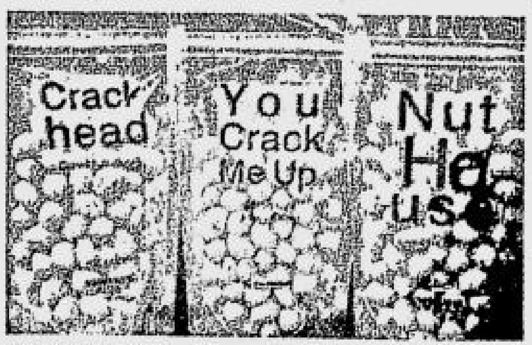
Its bestsellers are Eases Heartaches Garlic Chips, Burnt to a Crisp Shing-a-Ling, Crackhead Coated Nuts Garlic, Something's Fishy Crispy Dilis Teriyaki, Nut House Coated Nuts Chili, You Crack Me Up Coated Nuts (plain/salted), A Spice of Life Chili Garlic Coated Peanuts and Heartthrob Garlic Coated Peanuts.

Still on the drawing board are jellybeans, flavored pretzels, marshmallows, four variants of mixed nuts and candies.

All these offer a delicious flavor, the spice and the sweetness, the strength and the subtlety, a taste of the isles that's uniquely Filipino.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

RED and white wines from Italy



GOING NUTS. (From left) Coated Nuts (garlic flavor), Coated Nuts (plain/salted) and Coated Nuts (chili)

LIFE SOURCE. Mineral water

ASSOCIATES FINANCE, INC.

Never get caught unprepared for a rainy day.

Caught short by sudden financial needs? Unforeseen expenses storming down on you? Don't get drenched by worry. Just approach our friendly Credit Representatives and we'll lend you any amount from P15,000.00 to P400,000.00* in just two days without a whole lot of questions and paperwork. With AFI by your side, financial worry won't leave you crying in the rain.

*Subject to credit approval

**Associates Finance, Inc.
Consumer Loans Centers:**

CAINTA
G/F Rublou Business Center,
Ortigas Avenue Extension,
Cainta, Rizal
Tel. No. : 656-6838

CALAMBA
G/F J. Alcasid Business Center,
National Highway, Brgy. Real,
Calamba, Laguna
Tel. No. : (049) 545-9021

CEBU
G/F OLS Building,
443 Gorordo Ave. cor. Rosal St.,
Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. No. : (032) 231-5856

CUBAO
Fersal Building,
245 P. Tuazon Boulevard,
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No. : 421-0910

IMUS
G/F Ilano Building,
Nueno Boulevard,
Imus, Cavite
Tel. No. : (046) 472-1449

MAKATI
Dolmar Gold Tower
107 C. Palanca Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. : 864-8222

SAN PABLO
65 Rizal Avenue,
San Pablo City
Tel. No. : (049) 562-6874

TAFT
Joshua Center,
1428 Taft Avenue,
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. : 525-7790

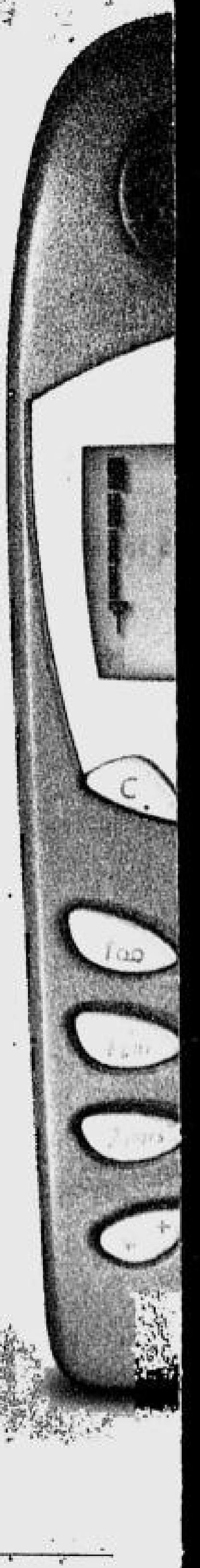
**Business Hours: Mondays to Fridays
9AM to 6PM, Saturdays 9AM to 1PM**

THE ASSOCIATES®
ASSOCIATES FINANCE, INC.
A member of citigroup

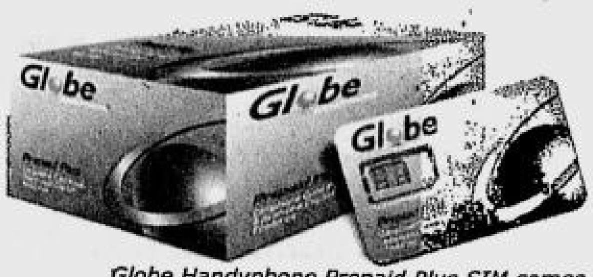
au

mo

BUY a Nokia 5110i for only ₱4390 for a chance to

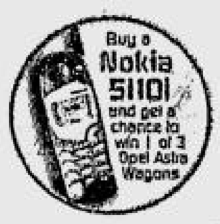


Available at Globe Telecom Business Centers,
authorized dealers and participating outlets.



Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus SIM comes with P300 worth of prepaid credits free.

Make sure this official promo sticker is affixed to the box of the Nokia 5110i phone kit that you buy.


Buy a
Nokia
5110i
and get a chance to win 1 of 3 Opel Astra Wagons

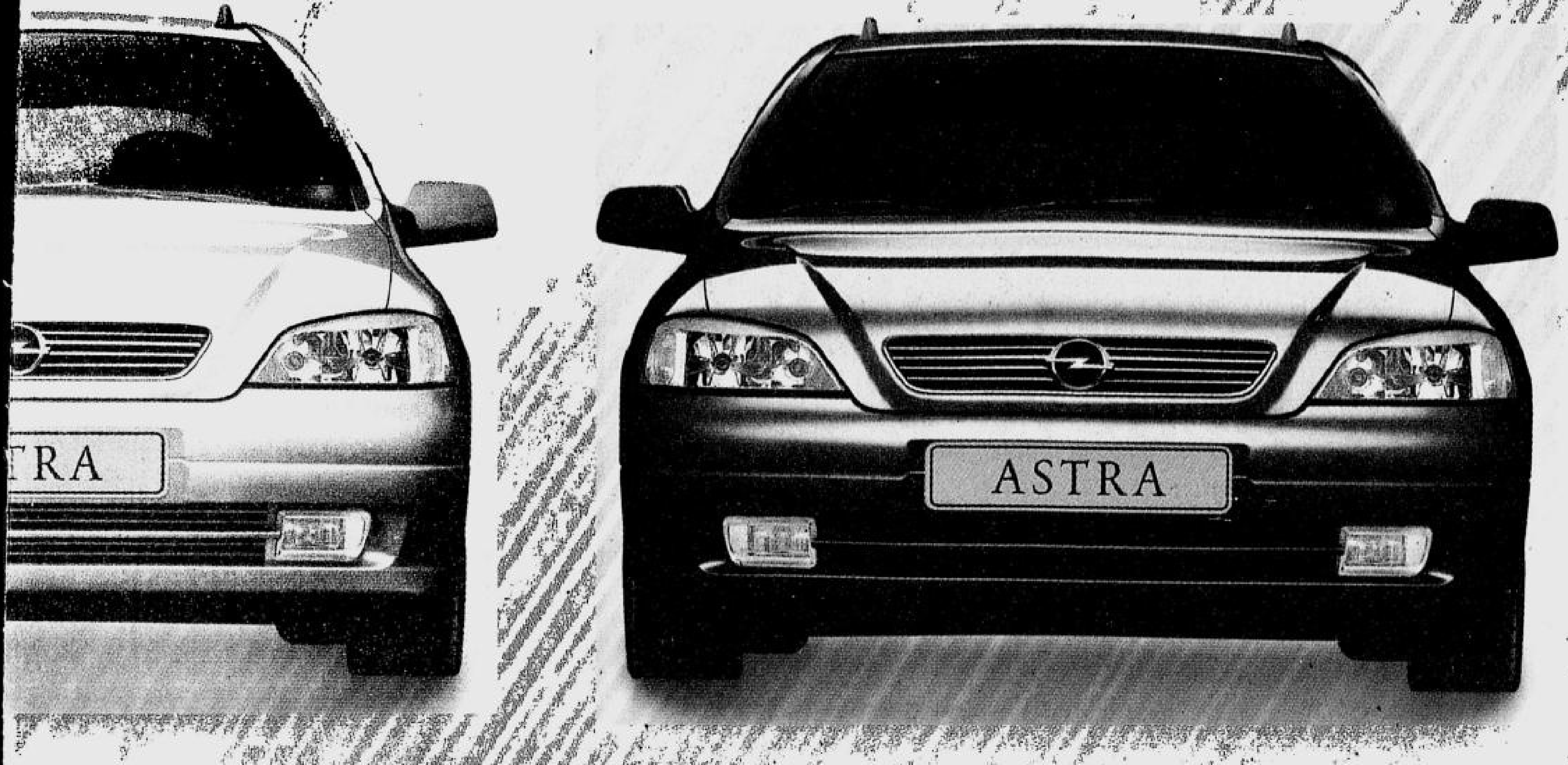
Promo period: August 18 to November 18, 2001 only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2640, Series of 2001.

It's easy to win!

1. Every purchase of a specially marked Nokia 5110i Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus phone kit entitles you to a raffle stub for a chance to win one of three (3) Opel Astra Wagons.
2. The phone kit contains a raffle stub and an IMEI sticker. The IMEI sticker must be attached to the raffle stub. This bears the IMEI number found at the back of the Nokia 5110i cellphone to indicate its authenticity.
3. Fill up the raffle coupon with your name, address, telephone number, new Globe Handyphone number, dealer's name and address then affix signature. Attach the IMEI sticker found inside the phone kit and drop in drop boxes located at all Globe Telecom Business Centers, accredited dealers and participating outlets.
4. Promo period is from Aug. 18 to Nov. 18, 2001.
5. One Opel Astra will be raffled off every month for three months. Raffle draw dates are as follows: First draw – Sept. 25, 2001, Second draw Oct. 25, 2001, Third draw – Nov. 26, 2001 at 4:00pm at Globe Telecom Marketing Department, 4/F GT Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the next raffle draw.
6. Deadline for submission of entries is every 18th of the month: Sept. 18, 2001; Oct. 18, 2001; Nov. 18, 2001.
7. A participant can only win once. Once a winner has been drawn, a Globe Telecom representative shall make a call to the Globe Handyphone number indicated on the raffle stub to notify that he/she has won. The subscriber shall be required to give his/her name and address and will be informed of the requirements when claiming. The winning subscriber shall also be notified by registered mail.
8. When claiming, proceed to Globe Telecom Marketing Department, 4/F GT Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City and present the following:
   - a. Purchased Nokia 5110i handset with the same IMEI as the one indicated on the raffle coupon plus the Prepaid SIM. The Globe Handyphone number must also be identical to the one indicated on the raffle coupon.
   - b. Official receipt, valid ID with picture and registered mail.
9. If the winner is a minor, he/she must be accompanied by his/her parents/guardian when claiming the prize and both the minor and his/her parents/guardian should present a valid identification. The latter should also bring proof that he/she is the parent/guardian of the minor.
10. A free round trip ticket for two (2) to Singapore with free
will be given to the Globe Telecom Business Center, ac
winning entry. Travel documents and taxes pertaining to
is valid for 6 months from date of redemption.
11. The 20% prize tax shall be borne by Globe Telecom.
registration of the vehicle awarded as prize shall be borne
12. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from receipt
(60) day period from notification, the prize shall be forfe
All prizes are not convertible to cash.
13. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communications
and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the
from joining the car raffle.

to



obile

NOKIA
GLOBE
Menu
2abc
3def
5jkl
6mno
8tuv
9wxyz
0
#

WIN one of three 2001 Opel Astra Wagons!

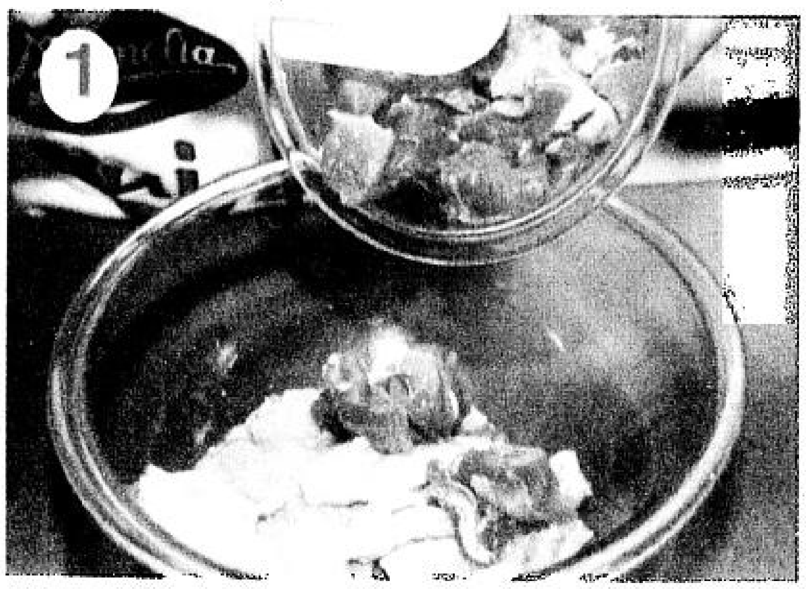
Globe
HANDYPHONE
Prepaid Plus

irfare and hotel accommodation for 3 days and 2 nights
credited dealer and participating outlet indicated on the
ne trip shall be borne by the winners. The travel package

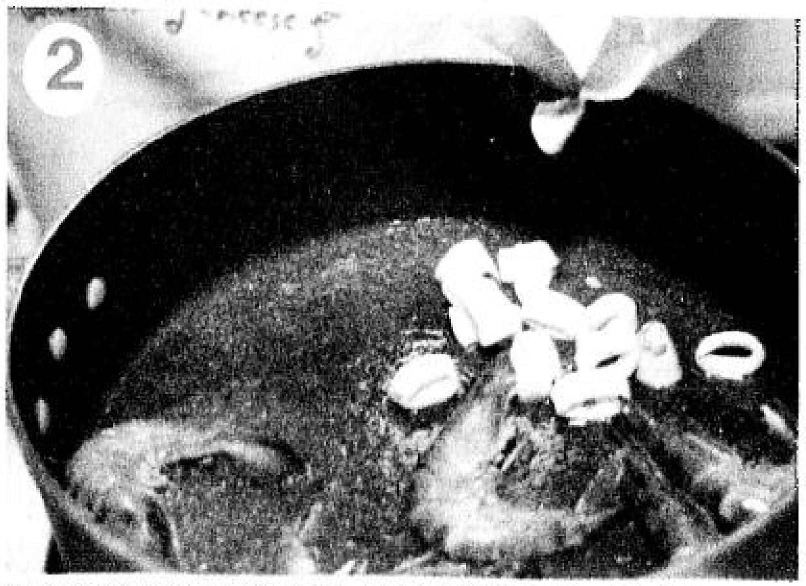
Any other taxes and registration fees pertaining to the
by the winner.
of notificatio   If prizes are not claimed within the sixty
ted in favor of Globe Telecom with prior DTI approval.

. Globe Telecom Business Centers, accredited dealers
econd degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified

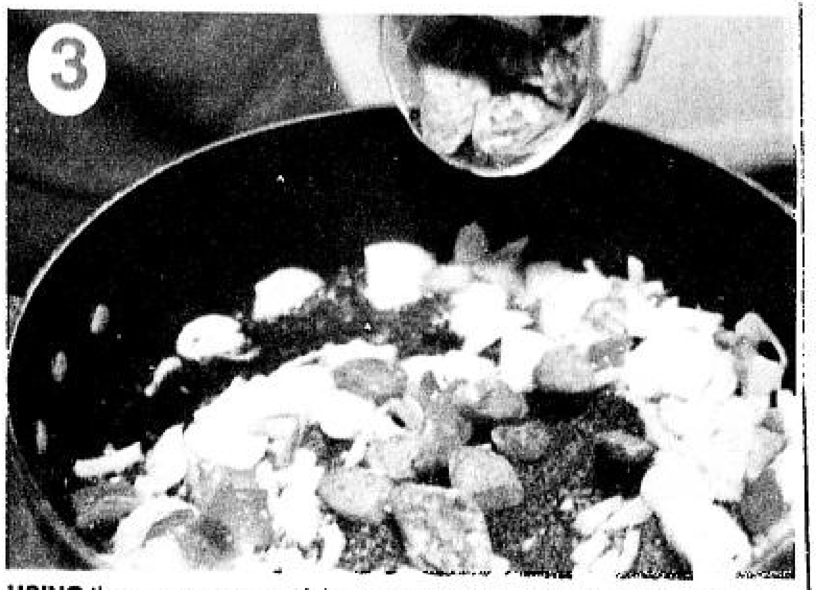
METRO MANILA CENTERS: ALABANGTOWN CENTER Unit 4009 ATC-Expansion Wing Alabang Zapote Road, Muntinlupa 850-7864 • **FESTIVAL SUPERMALL** Unit 4064 A&B (4/F) Alabang Zapote Wing, Filinvest Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa 8428026 • **GLORIETTA HUB** Unit 252/254 2nd level, HUB Glorietta 4 Building, Ayala Center 7570525 • **GREENHILLS** 2/F ALCO Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila 723-5171/723-5446 • **GT PLAZA** Upper Ground Globe Telecom Plaza Pioneer St., Cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City 730-2586 • **MARIKINA** G/F Alcantara Bldg., 282 A. Bonifacio Avenue, Marikina City 933-3772/73 • **PARK SQUARE I** Park Square I South Drive Ayala Center Makati City (Near Exit of Park Square I parking) 752-8142 • **ROBINSON'S GALLERIA** Ground Flr., Level 1, 1-A11 Robinson's Galleria Hall 6385976/6384051 • **ROCKWELL HUB** Unit 317 3rd Level Power Plant Mall Rockwell, Makati City • **SHAW** G/F AB Sandoval Building Oranbo drive corner Shaw Blvd., Pasig City 910-2093 • **SM CENTERPOINT** 2/F Unit 310 Magsaysay Blvd., Cor. Araneta Ave., Sta. Mesa, Manila 713-1606 • **SM FAIRVIEW** Unit 2004 2nd level SM Fairview Quirino Highway Cor. Regalado Avenue Greater Lagro, Quezon City 419-6470 • **SM MANILA** 4/Flr Unit 430 SM City Manila, Arroceros St., Cor. Marcelino Sts and Concepcion Avenue, Manila 522-8895 • **SM MEGAMALL** 5/F SM Megamall Bldg., Building B, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 638-3306 • **SM NORTH EDSA** Right Wing SM Car Park Plaza III, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City 454-8818 • **SM SOUTHMALL** UG East Hall Way, SM Southmall, Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City 800-5305 • **TOWER ONE** G/F Unit C Tower One and Exchange Plaza Ayala Avenue, Makati City 751-3286 • **UN** G/F Globe Telecom Bldg., 669 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila 759-7225 • **NORTH LUZON CENTERS: ANGELES** Unit F & G, D.M Gomez Bldg., Salapungan, Angeles City, Pampanga (045) 887-0542 • **ANTIPOLO** 2/F Camina Bldg., #5 Circumferential Rd., Antipolo, Rizal (02) 650-0573 • **BAGUIO** 2/F BPI Bldg., Session Road, Baguio City (074) 443-8903 • **CABANATUAN CITY** Ayala Life Bldg., Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija (044) 463-7377 • **CALAMBA** 2/F J. Alcaid Bldg., Crossing, Calamba, Laguna (049) 545-2504 • **DAGUPAN CITY** Carried Lumber Bldg., M.H. del Pilar St., Dagupan City (075) 523-0824 • **LEGASPI** 2/F A. Bichara Silverscreen & Entertainment Center Magallanes cor. T. Alonzo St., Legaspi City (052) 820-1339 • **LUCENA** Unit 3VEA Building Hermana Fausta, Lucena City (042) 373-6117 • **MEYCAUAYAN** Meycauayan College Building, McArthur Highway, Meycauayan, Bulacan (044) 840-0012 • **SAN PABLO** 19 M. Leonor St., San Pablo City (049) 561-1746 • **SM PAMPANGA** Ground Floor, SM City Pampanga, Lagundi, Mexico, Pampanga (045) 961-6339 • **TARLAC** Siayan Supermarket, McArthur Highway, Tarlac, Tarlac (045) 982-7930 • **TUGUEGARAO** Unit 57-B Chowking Bldg., Balzain Rd., Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley (078) 844-5526 • **VIGAN** Unit 3, Formoso Townhouse A, Mabini St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur (077) 722-1697 • **SOUTHWEST CENTERS: BACOOR (HOST)** General Tirona Highway Barangay Dulong Bayan, Bacoor, Cavite (046) 970-8010 • **BOLBOK** Diversion Extension Rd. Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City (043) 980-0133 • **CALAPAN** G/F Ferraren Bldg., M. Leuterio St., Calapan, Oriental Mindoro (043) 441-0133 • **LIPA** AMS Bldg., G/F 50 B. Morada Avenue, Lipa City (043) 981-0123 • **MOLINO** G/F EVY Corp. Bldg., Molino Road, Bacoor, Cavite (046) 517-1861 • **SM BACOOR** 3rd Level, SM Bacoor, Aguinaldo Hway cor Tirona, Bacoor, Cavite (046) 970-8123 • **VISAYAS CENTERS: BACOLOD** Unit 107 VSB Mall Lacson St., cor. 6th & 7th sts. Bacolod City (034) 435-3961 • **CEBU AYALA CENTER** 2nd Level, Paseo Verde, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City (032) 233-5811 • **CEBU KANGHA** G/F Kangha Bldg., Osmeña Blvd. cor Lapu-Lapu St., Cebu City (032) 254-1011 • **SM CEBU** 3rd Level SM City Cebu North Reclamation Cebu City (032) 4129956, (032) 4129957 • **SM ILOILO** Level 2 SM City Iloilo B. Aquino Ave., Mandurriao, Iloilo City 5000 (033) 320-7739 • **MINDANAO CENTERS: BUTUAN** Urios College Gym J.C. Aquino corner Calo St., Butuan City (085) 815-4041 • **CAGAYAN DE ORO** G/F Metz Arcade, Cap. Vicente Roa Ext., Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 725-601 • **COTABATO CITY** G/F D'Marco Bldg., Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City (064) 482-0001 • **DAVAO** Grand Men Seng Hotel A, Pichon St., Davao City (082) 226-3521 • **DAVAO-VICTORIA PLAZA** 2/F Victoria Plaza, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City (082) 300-3686 • **GENERAL SANTOS** Door 17 Road Bldg., Santiago Blvd., General Santos City (083) 301-0051 • **ILIGAN** G/F Kimberly Bldg., National Highway, Tibanga, Iligan City (063) 223-9139 • **VALENCIA, BUKIDNON** Garcia's Bldg., Castaneta St., Cor. Sayre Highway, Valencia, Bukidnon (088) 828-3344 • **ZAMBOANGA** Door 2&3 ARY Bldg., San Jose Road, Zamboanga City (062) 992-1025



IN A BOWL, combine salt, paprika, coriander, thyme, black pepper, chicken and pork. Set aside.



IN A SAUCEPAN, heat olive oil. Pan-fry prawns and squid. Remove from pan and set aside.



USING the same pan, sauté *longganisa*, garlic, onions and bell peppers.

'Paella' via rice cooker? You better believe it

You can whip up your favorite Spanish dish minus the headache and the anxiety

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

***PAELLA*, Spain's most famous dish, is undoubtedly one of the world's great rice dishes. But cooking *paella* can be a complicated affair with all those assorted spices and meat ingredients cooked altogether in a traditional *paellera*, a low-rimmed round pan usually made of cast iron from which it is also served.**

Fortunately, there's now an alternative way to cook this Spanish favorite. Home cooks will find it easier to cook *paella* in a rice cooker. "This is an easy way of cooking the *paella*, it is made for today's fast-paced lifestyle," says Helene Pontejos, San Miguel Food Group culinary services manager. "This simple version is designed to cut short cooking time or leave enough room for housewives to attend to other chores while waiting for the *paella* to cook."

This one-dish meal is combined with assorted savory spices and ingredients, such as *longganisa*, squid, pork, chicken, thyme and coriander, etc. Feel free to improvise. You can add sliced ham or bacon or whatever else strikes your fancy.

The key ingredient for a fragrant and flavorful dish is in the spice called saffron, the world's most expensive spice. But for prudent housewives, you can use our local *kasubha* in place of the expensive saffron. And, in case you don't have a *paellera*, a large skillet with ovenproof handles will also do.

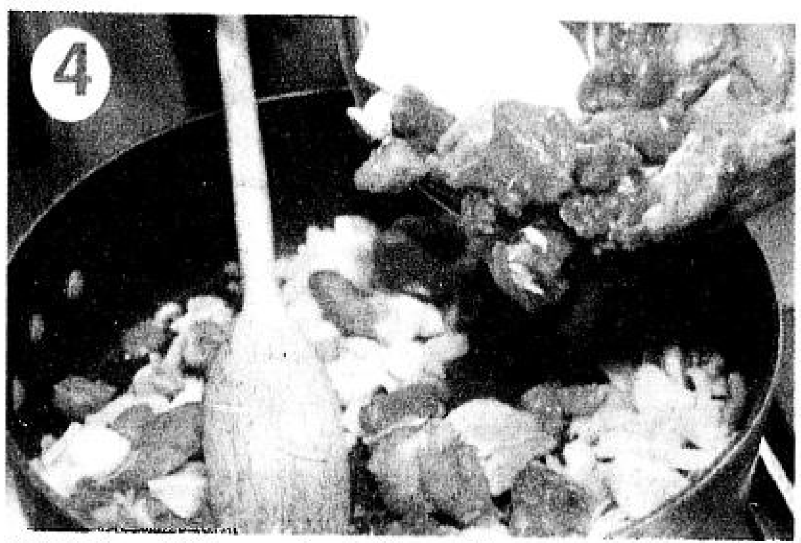
Makes 10-12 servings.

1 tsp salt
½ tsp paprika
½ tsp ground coriander
½ tsp dried thyme
½ kg Magnolia fresh chicken, cut into serving pieces
½ tsp ground black pepper
½ kg Monterey pork tenderloin, cut into serving pieces
¼ kg prawns, about 10 pc
¼ kg squid, cleaned and sacs removed, sliced into rings
1/3 c olive oil
2 pc Campocarne *longganisa* Española, sliced diagonally ¼ inch thick
1 tbsp minced garlic
2 c chopped onions
1 c tomato sauce
½ c diced red and green bell peppers
2 tbsp *kasubha*
3 pc chicken cubes, dissolved in 6 c water
3½ long grain rice, washed
½ c green peas
Salt and pepper to taste
Paprika

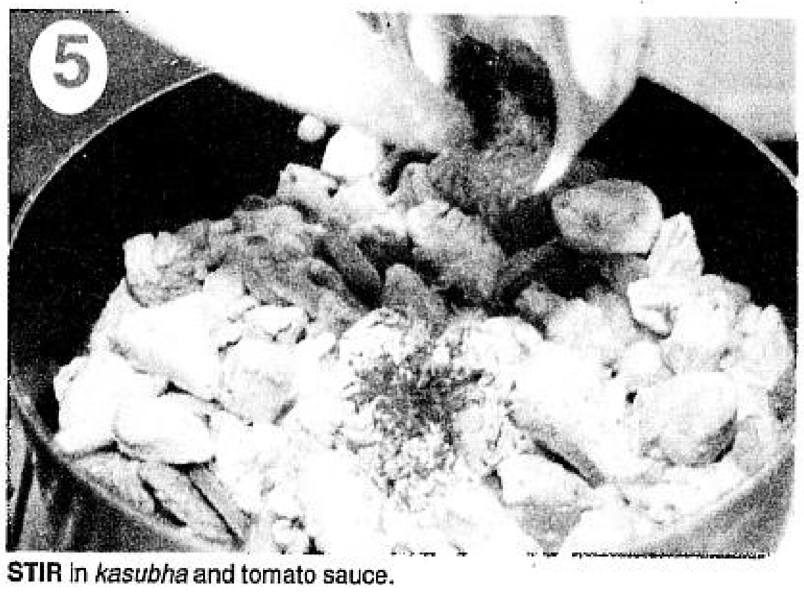
Toppings:
2 tbsp minced garlic
Canned pimiento slices
Lemon wedges

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

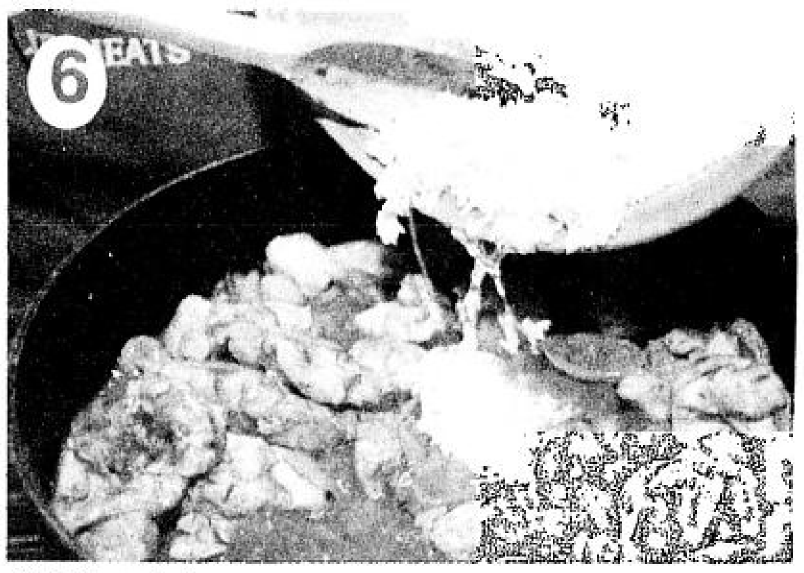
STEP BY STEP



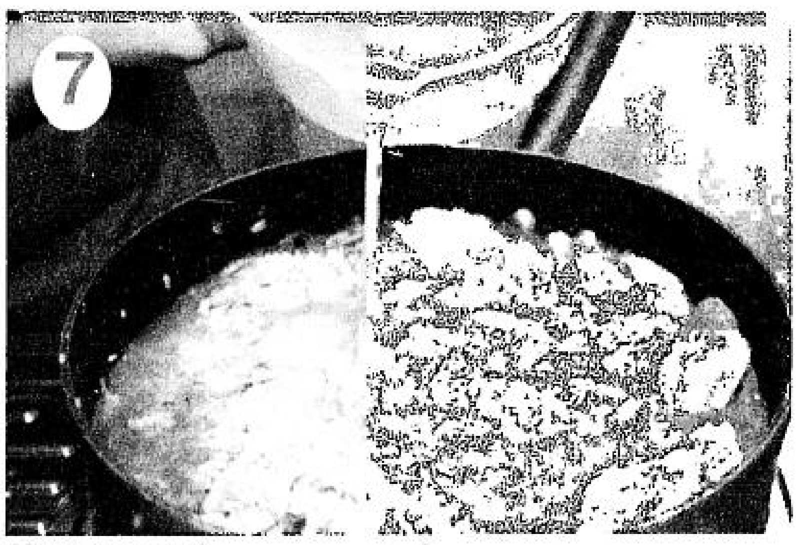
ADD pork and chicken, and cook till meat is brown.



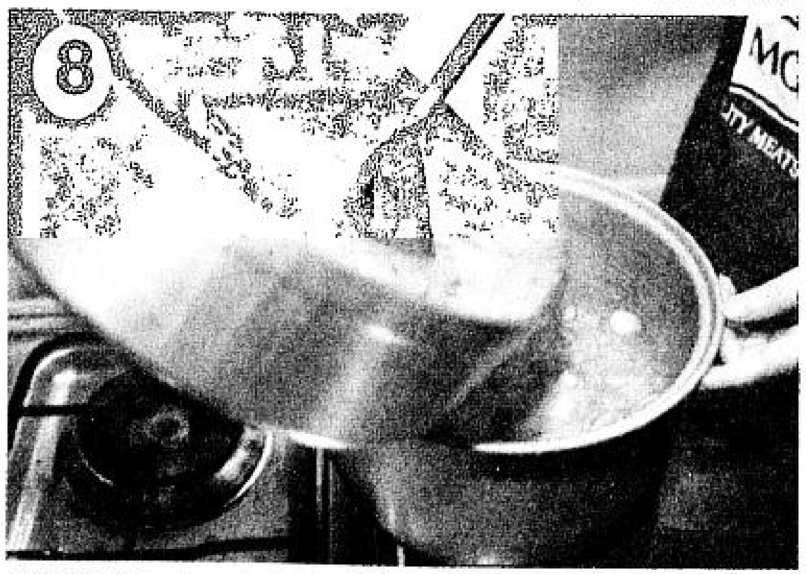
STIR in *kasubha* and tomato sauce.



ADD rice and mix.

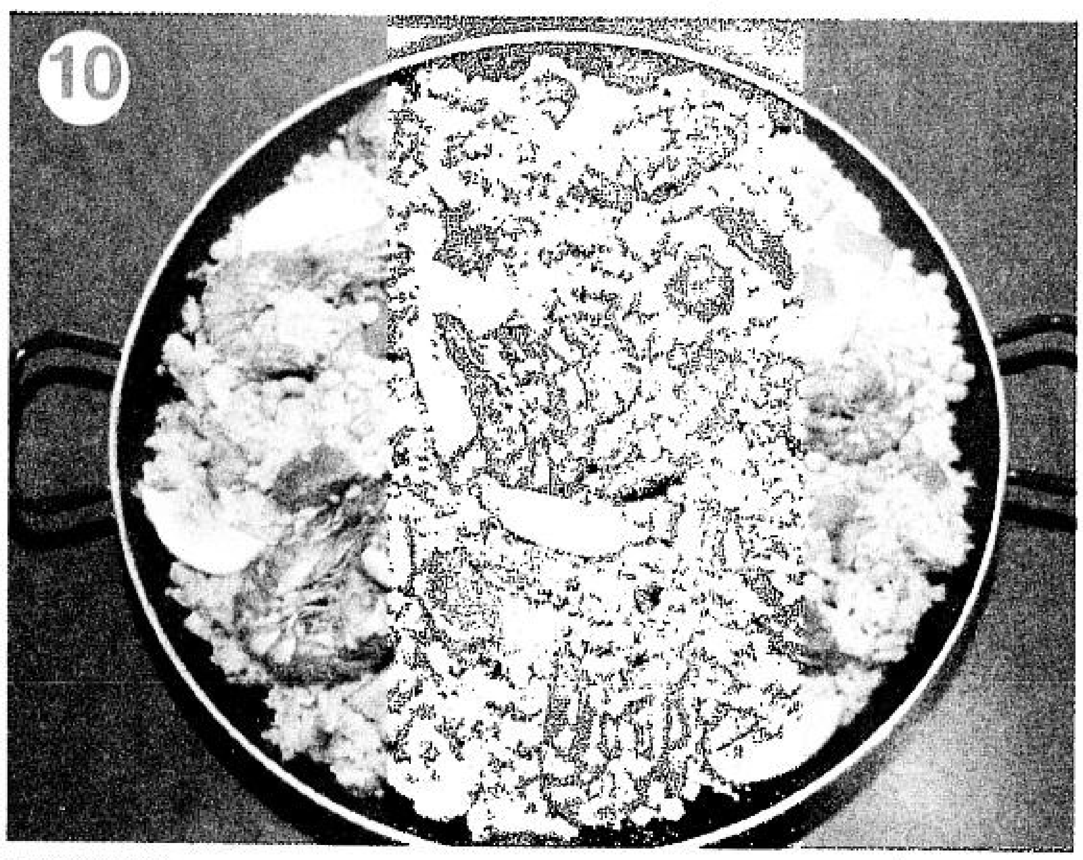


ADD chicken broth.



TRANSFER to a rice cooker.

COOK rice for 30 minutes or until rice is tender. Stir in peas, prawns and squid, and season mixture with salt, pepper and paprika.



REMOVE from heat and transfer to a *paellera*. Top with minced garlic and garnish with lemon wedges and *pimiento* slices.

Goose liver and mushrooms' second encore

MANDARIN Oriental's The Tivoli brings back from Sept. 5-19 two of Europe's culinary treasures in a gourmet fete titled "Sublime Taste of Goose Liver and Mushrooms."

The Tivoli diners have indulged in this gastronomic promotion for the past two years and have come to expect it yearly, says executive chef Norbert Gandler.

For its second encore, he and The Tivoli's two master chefs, Humphrey Navarro and Kenneth Cacho, will prepare a selection of glorious creations using the best goose liver (foie gras) imported from France and the freshest mushrooms available. "Our menu for this year's promotion features well-loved dishes from the previous years and select new creations," says Gandler.

To complete one's dining experience, an extensive variety of red and white French, Californian and Australian house wines are also being offered by the glass.

Foie gras, a French specialty, is made of the enlarged liver of a goose or duck that has been force-fed and fattened over a period of four to five months. This gastronomic treat is soaked overnight in milk, water or port, and then marinated in a mixture of Armagnac, Port or Madeira and other seasonings.

The best foie gras, which has a rosy color with blotches of beige, is firm and comes from the Dordogne area of South West France. It first reached the height of popularity in Strasbourg toward the end of the 18th century when a chef named Jean Pierre Clause prepared a dish using goose liver, which caught the attention of King Louis XVI.

The word mushroom, first recorded in the early 15th century, was borrowed from the Old French *mousseron*. Mushrooms are categorized in three sizes: The smallest, button mushrooms; medium-sized cups and the largest, flat mushrooms or open mushrooms. Over the years, continental varieties of mushrooms, which include cepes, chanterelles,

morels, girolles and truffles have been a favorite ingredient to enhance the natural flavors of a dish, be it a soup, sauce or stuffing.

The Tivoli's "Goose Liver and Mushrooms" promotion is available for lunch (Monday to Friday), 12-2:30 p.m., and dinner (daily), 7-10:30 p.m., at which a flutist, guitarist and pianist will play soothing music.

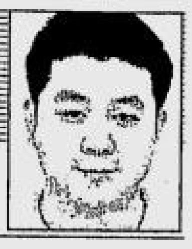
The cold appetizers include traditional goose liver terrine with sauterne jelly; toasted brioche and mesclun greens tossed in balsamic dressing; salad of pan-fried goose liver accompanied by assorted garden greens and chanterelles tossed in raspberry dressing; Caesar salad with wild mushrooms and brioche garlic croutons; salad of chanterelles and poached prawns with a bouquet of salad leaves and William pear in a light curry dressing and Norwegian smoked salmon and goose liver tourchon grape shallot jam.

The goose liver sampler consists of goose liver terrine with fig onion marmalade, pad-fried goose liver, fried goose liver dumpling with grammy apple slaw served with smoked duck breast and meslun greens tossed in raspberry dressing.

The hot appetizers are gratinated chanterelles with pan-fried goose liver, wild mushroom risotto topped with pan-seared goose liver, tagliatelle tossed in wild mushroom and pancheta cream sauce, and pumpkin cannelloni filled with spinach and feta cheese set on mushroom ragout.

For main courses, choose from pan-fried veal tenderloin with seared foie gras with grashed butternut squash, spinach and truffle sauce, roasted rack of Victorian spring lamb with tart tatin of caramelized onion and pan-fried goose liver garlic confit and sauce piquant, roasted free range spring chicken with spinach and wild mushroom fricassee, goose liver tortellini and vermouth jus, *pot-au-feu* of foie gras and muscovi duck breast with wild mushrooms and root vegetables, cilantro crusted Australian beef tenderloin, pan-fried lobster tail, wild mushroom sauce and gratin potato, pan-roasted sea bass served with celery potato puree, soya butter and topped with arugula mushroom relish, hot-smoked gindara with welted spinach, set on chanterelle and prosciuto risotto tressed with portini oil, pan-fried dover sole filled with creamed wild mushrooms with parslyed fingerling potato and braised caramelized onions.

Accidence of eating and living after an accident



THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

THOSE of my readers who find my columns long and rambling will probably like this one. A former touch-typing speed champion (one of my few distinctions I achieved at Xavier, aside from clocking up the most hours of detention for disciplinary offenses), I am now reduced to pecking at my keyboard with one hand, since the other one is immobilized in a cast; like a spoilt mestizo heir, it is completely useless, but gives reminders of its presence from time to time by sending out great jolts of pain from time to time and asking for money for drugs.

I wish I had an interesting story to tell about this accident, but the irony of it all is that it happened in the most prosaic manner. I was walking to the parking lot in front of Rockwell, which is separated from the main road by a slope. At the far end, near the Power Plant Mall, there is a patch of grass with a gentler slope, which I assumed was intended as a pathway. However, irritated restaurant owners, UP anti-bourgeois groups and some previous girlfriends had conspired and come up with the Food Columnist Debilitating Device (patent pending), which consisted of an invisible wire at the top of this gentle slope. It proved highly effective: I flew spectacularly through the air and landed on my arm and on my head, and lay unconscious for several minutes. I dusted myself off, staggered to the car, and drove myself with one arm to the hospital, all the while highly annoyed that I was missing out on Fashion TV's lingerie segments (if museums used to be where nice gentlemen went to look at erotic pictures, these clips of models strutting about in underwear is what gentlemen watch instead of Playboy videos).

Interrogated

At the hospital, I was interrogated in a manner that was to become very familiar to me over the next few days. "What happened?" they asked. I explained. They shook their heads and lowered their voices and did everything short of winking. "No, it's okay. You can tell us. What really happened?" I have no idea what they imagined I was covering up. This has been going on up to today. "Well," I would say, "I tripped." A gasp. "Oh, my God! See, this is why you should never take drugs!" If you must know, it was a double espresso that I had had. I was not high. I wasn't even drunk. I had simply tripped and fallen. But I'm going to tell the next person who asks that it happened during an S&M orgy that involved three girls, a transvestite and a goat.

Breaking an arm is, I suppose, something that happens fairly often to a good number of people. Any of them can confirm the experience of suddenly being debilitated and learning to do the simplest of tasks again, even going to the toilet. The most complicated operation of all is taking a shower: it involves large sheets of plastic swaddling-cloth to keep the arm dry, and using kitchen tongs to soap underneath the arms; the whole operation takes about an hour, and I am reconsidering my attitude about committed relationships. Eating is yet another round of novelty and excitement; in the end I usually simply lower my head to the table and tear off bits with my teeth. That part's fun, actually; the hard part is preparing it when the maid is away or asleep.

I now have great awareness of what one British newspaper termed as "People-Proof Packaging," or PPP for short. The most obvious example of this is the CD. You've just bought a new album and want to listen to it in the car on the way home. So in the dimly lit silence of the parking lot, you open the trunk of the car, take out the disc changer, and then attempt to break through Tower Records' amazing-strength bag, made out of a material which can also be used to carry iron-ore, strap down prisoners to the electric-chair and berth ocean-liners. After you've torn through that, there's a plastic wrapper with a band circling it: very metaphysically, it has no beginning and no end. While you're doing this, sinister characters in perspective vision are donning ski-masks and cocking their automatic pistols. As they approach, you have to peel off a sticky strip of plastic that runs across the top. If they're considerate, the masked men might let you listen to the album while you're waiting for the ransom money to be delivered.

Pedialyte

Another of my favorite PPP's is the container for Pedialyte, a rehydrating liquid for diarrhea. Made of sturdy, industrial-grade plastic, the bottle has an ingenious seal: to open it, you have to twist a hollow plastic cap clockwise until it snaps, then back anti-clockwise to remove the top. When it does work, it's actually quite fun. This happens with about one bottle in a doze. Usually, you find yourself working up a sweat, twisting it between your legs, and then finally gouging out a hole with a knife. There has to be some sinister reason a patient weakened by diarrhea must be made to exert Herculean labor in order to achieve the elixir of life. Nor is it particularly dangerous (opening insecticide bottles is a walk in the park); anyone who has tried Pedialyte will know that children would have no wish to drink it for fun.

Then there's the potato chip bag that explodes its contents all over the car, the little containers for milk to put in your coffee that sprinkle a few drops over your tie, ketchup packets that can't be torn open even at the groove, sardine cans that you have to open with a key (but diagonally, so that the key runs out of room to spool the metal top)… the list goes on and on. And what do you do with a take-out order of *bulalo* in soup which comes in a thin plastic bag, tied with a double-knot? (I usually put the whole thing in a bowl, slash it with a knife, and then fish out the sodden bag, like a burst placenta. The outside of the bag is unlikely to be clean; hence Pedialyte, cf. above paragraph.)

Thank heavens, I've a maid who now cooks for me, opens jam jars, and helps me gesticulate when I am recounting a story about something *this big!* I can still drive around, though I can't give insolent bus drivers the finger. As for sex, it would give me a very good excuse to get head without giving any; although, the way my dating life has been going, it's probably Alzheimer's I'll have to worry about when I get some ("Have you come yet? I forget."). Meanwhile, I'm off to Cebu and Dumaguete, where I shall attempt to swim with one arm above water. And now my right hand is officially tired, and FTV is coming up.

E-mail the author at Clinton@i-manila.com.ph

RDINES
PIZZA
WE DELIVER
steph

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

New ways to enjoy tofu

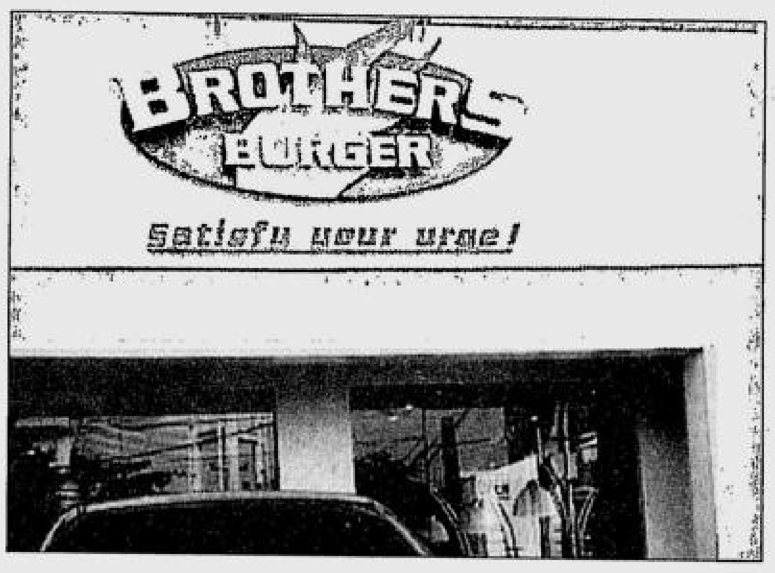
ON SEPT. 8, at 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center will hold a cooking lesson using bean curd or tofu, popularly known to health buffs and figure-conscious individuals as *tokwa*. A Maya Kitchen Japanese consultant, who will teach participants how to prepare tofu recipes, will conduct this one-day cooking lesson. Recipes included in the demonstration are Tuna Tofu Dip and Tofu Balls, Stuffed Tofu, Tofu Teriyaki, Tofu and Wakame Salad, Tofu Fruit Shake, Tofu Mango Dessert.

You can also check out other Maya One-Day Cooking Specials, like meat processing with no preservatives on Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Be an expert in preparing chicken and pork *tocino*, corned beef, native *longganisa*, beef *tapa* plus a bonus on how to make homemade cold cuts. Baking with Institutional Mixes will be on Sept. 8, 1:30-5 p.m. On Sept. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. will be Catering Business. BBQ Sizzlers will be on Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., while Japanese Cooking will be on Sept. 22, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Restaurant Operations and Pinoy Bread will be on Sept. 29, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and 1:30-5 p.m., respectively.

For Certificate Courses with Hands-On, you can choose from any of these Maya courses: Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) for Career Cooks on Sept. 11-14 or Sept. 25-28 at 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Basic Baking on Sept. 12-14 or Sept. 26-28, 1:30-5 p.m.; Basic Cake Decoration and Integrated Workshop on Waitering and Bartending for two consecutive Saturdays on Sept. 15 and 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., respectively; and Cooking I (Basic Cooking) for Messman, Steward and Beginners on Sept. 18-21 or Oct. 2-5, 1:30-4 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011, local 108, or e-mail Mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

BROTHERS Burger food chain has just opened a franchise in Libis, QC. Comfortably set in the busy atmosphere and night-set of the town, Brothers Burger welcomes all to dine and enjoy their burgers in a 160-sq m area, cozy enough to accommodate 60 people.



Food and beverage fair

THE PADRE Faura Atrium of the Robinsons Place Ermita is the venue of the Food and Beverage sampling and tasting, on-going until Sept. 7. The fair features alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, regional delicacies and select delicatessen. The event is hosted by Festival Exhibits and is open to public from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 820-7879, 820-1570 or page 15816328592.

Vegetarian cooking demo

MOTHER Sachi Vegetarian Restaurant will present a vegetarian cooking demonstration at the Annual Charity Bazaar at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Social Hall on Sept. 22. General manager Ramona Morato will educate shoppers on the advantages of being a vegetarian and will lecture on the alternatives to eating meat. Also available on bargain prices at the bazaar are wines and delicatessen, arts and crafts, table tops and linens, houseware and clothes. Bottles of wine will be given to lucky shoppers during the hourly bazaar. The bazaar is open to the public from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879, 820-1570 or page 15816328592.

Eat, drink and be merry

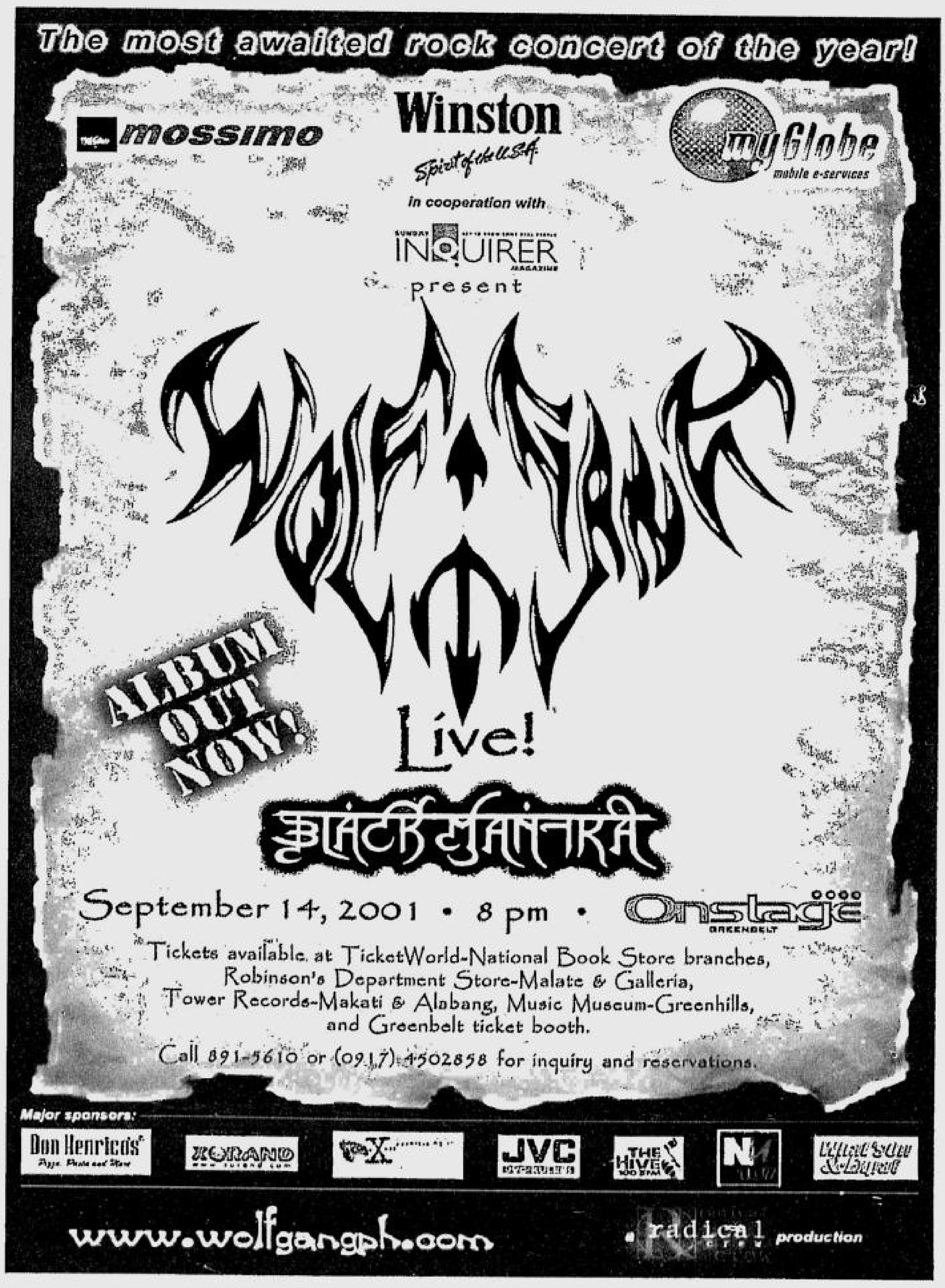
IT'S an "All-Out (All Month 2nd Anniversary) Party" as new and exciting offers await regular patrons of Dencio's Bar & Grill Southpoint in Alabang. Watch out for exciting freebies and discounts that make dining and drinking truly an enjoyable feast this whole month of September.

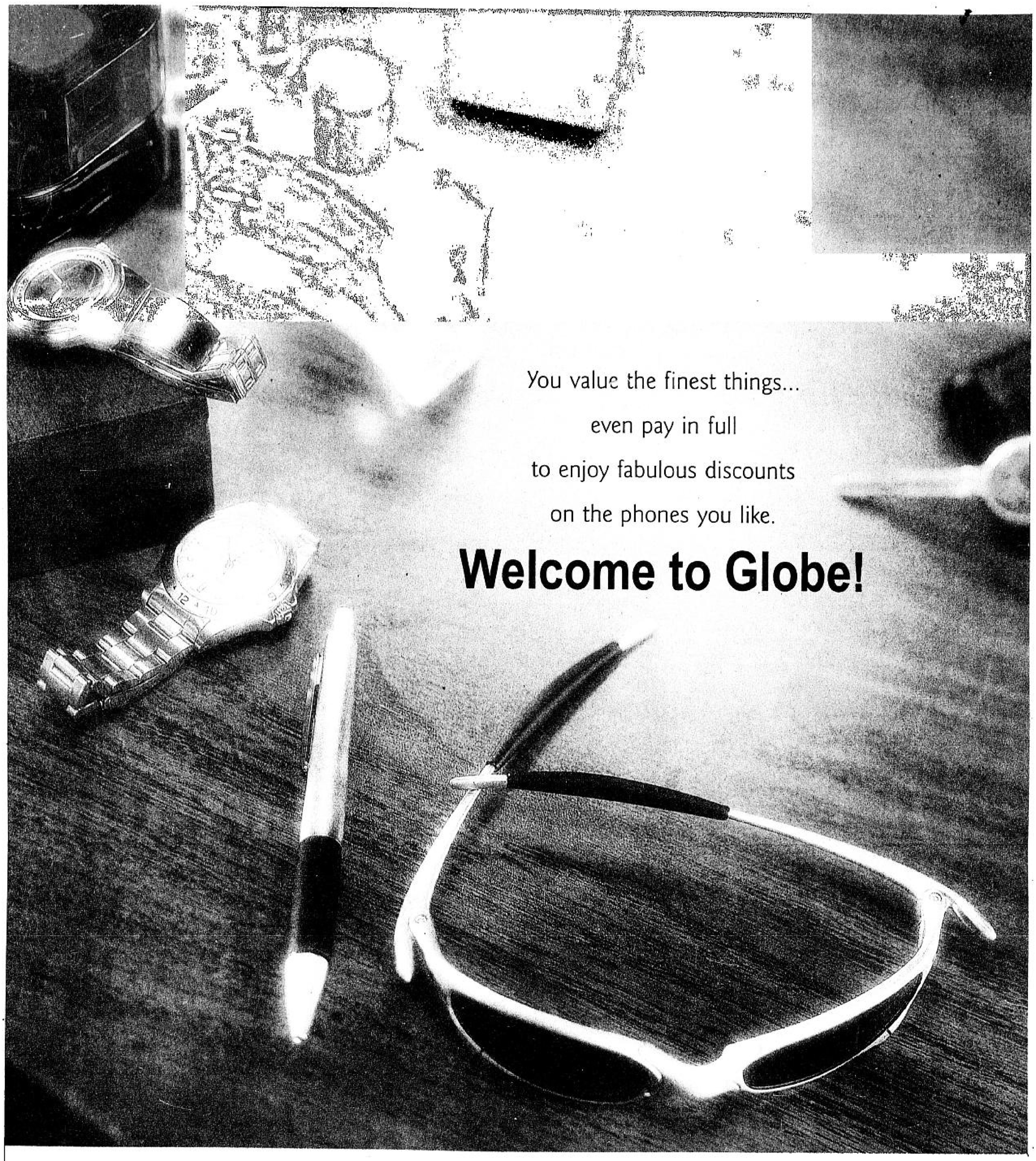
Beer drinkers will call it a "steal" as San Miguel Beer Pale Pilsen and San Miguel Light go for only P25 per bottle. A group of five can match them with free *pulutan*. Non-beer drinkers can guzzle the night away with bottomless iced tea at regular price.

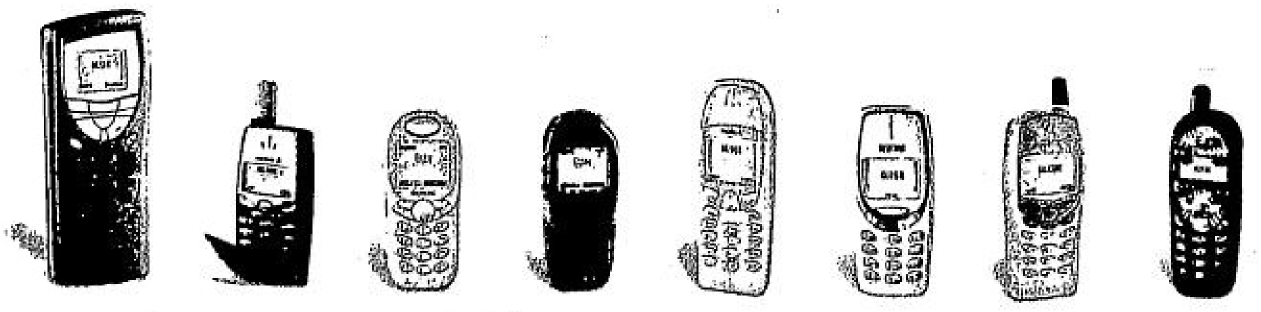
On anniversary day, Sept. 14, get 20 percent discount on your food and drinks any time of the day. In the evening of the same day, Dencio's Alabang diners can also catch the live performance of the sultry Silk Band as they perform an array of party music from the '70s to the '90s while spicing them up with today's hottest hits. The Silk Band, an all-female vocal trio has become one of the country's hottest bands. Together, they pour out their remarkable talents in a heart-stopping show Dencio's regular diners should never miss.

Call Dencio's Alabang at 850-5930.

FIGARO Coffee Co. has just opened a new branch at the Rockwell Power Plant. The grand opening was graced by Robert Francisco (Figaro director), Frumencio Dequito (GM-Retail, Caltex Phils. Inc.), Gigi San Diego (Figaro Rockwell, managing director), Aurora Tanseco (Figaro director) and Jesus Francisco (president, Meralco). Franchisee Gigi San Diego (center) thanked all those who had been patronizing the outlet since its soft opening a few months ago.


The most awaited rock concert of the year!
mossimo
Winston
Spirit of the U.S.A.
myGlobe mobile e-services
in cooperation with
SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE
present
WOLFGANG
ALBUM OUT NOW!
Live!
BLACK MANTRA
September 14, 2001 • 8 pm • Onstage GREENBELT
Tickets available at TicketWorld-National Book Store branches, Robinson's Department Store-Malate & Galleria, Tower Records-Makati & Alabang, Music Museum-Greenhills, and Greenbelt ticket booth.
Call 891-5610 or (0917) 4502858 for inquiry and reservations.
Major sponsors:
Don Henrico's Pizza, Pasta and More
JVC
THE HIVE
www.wolfgangph.com
a radical production





Handsets	Nokia 9210	Ericsson T39	Siemens S45	Siemens ME45	Nokia 6210	Nokia 3330	Ericsson A3618*	Siemens A40
Personal ₱799 x 12mos = ₱9,588	37,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,500	7,000	4,100	2,500
Business ₱1,331 x 12mos = ₱15,972	34,500	11,500	9,500	9,500	8,000	4,500	1,600	FREE
Executive ₱1,997 x 12mos = ₱23,964	32,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
CEO ₱2,662 x 12mos = ₱31,944	29,500	6,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
WAIVED REGISTRATION FEE!								

*Available starting September 15, 2001

Promo Period: August 26 - October 31, 2001

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1299, SERIES OF 2001. SEE POSTERS AND FLYERS FOR DETAILS

Advanced Monthly Service Fee

Prepay your monthly service fee for one whole year to get as much as 79% discount on your choice phone.

***To avail:** Just bring your valid ID with picture + your ITR, pay slip or latest credit card statement with a minimum credit limit of ₱10,000 + utility bills or credit card statement of the last two months under your name.*

Visit the nearest Globe Telecom Business Center
or any accredited dealer nationwide.

Globe
HANDYPHONE
ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED
Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LIFESTYLE

Tastes

FIVE popular appetizers

Thien Duong food is another step in the continuum from the countryside and roadside, to royal courts and the fine-dining table

Remembering Vietnamese food

ONLY once have I been to Vietnam, and that was in the '60s before the war, when Saigon was a quiet, Asian-French city. I loved the French food served at sidewalk cafés shadowed by giant tamarind trees, their feathery leaves so Asian and so right. I also loved hearing Mass at the large old cathedral—in French—and watching flights of lithe Vietnamese girls in *ao dai* on their bicycles.

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

I haven't been back since, but have further experienced Vietnam in the refugee camps in Bataan and Palawan. Puerto Princesa has established a reputation for Vietnamese bread and noodles. There and in Bataan Vietnamese people have planted the herbs they need on tiny plots around their houses; have built homemade ovens for their bread; offer bowls of noodles (*pho*) almost all day, noodles being good for snacks, lunch, *merienda* and supper.

Vietnamese restaurants in Metro Manila I have also enjoyed, and have regretted the loss of those that did not survive. From them I learned how fresh, green crisp vegetables and herbs—lettuce, basil, mint, coriander leaves, Romaine, bean tendrils, bean sprout tails, etc.—wonderfully freshen and flavor soups, beef, pork and shrimp tidbits.

REMEMBERING/ p.D2

CHARCOAL-GRILLED chicken with deep-fried glutinous rice

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

TASTY TOFU AND MORE

Bean curd, popularly known in our country as tofu is a very rich source of protein. This nutritious yet inexpensive ingredient has been incorporated in healthy recipes that are favorites of health buffs, figure conscious people and people who just can't resist its delectable taste and texture.

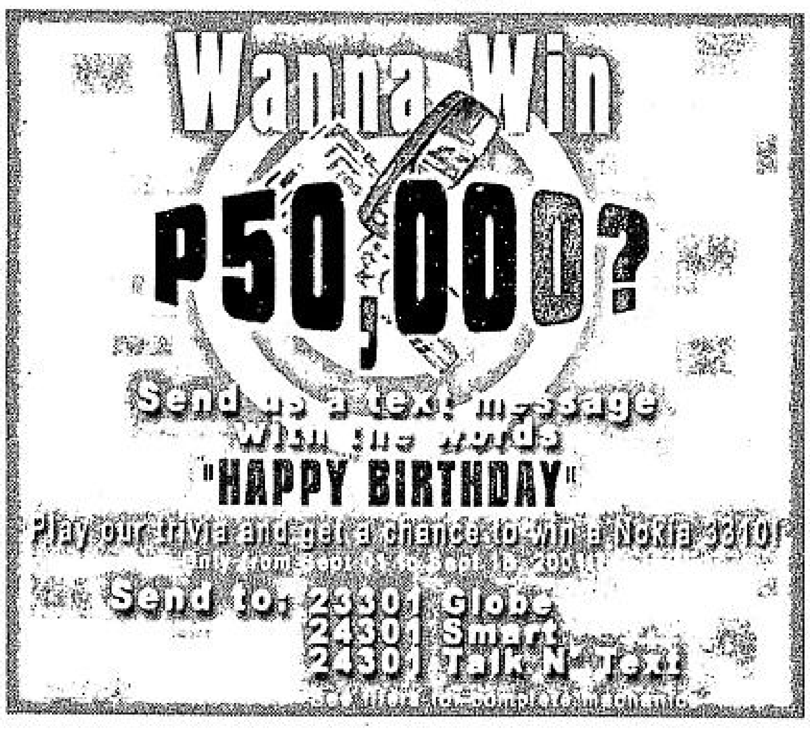
This September, let the Maya Kitchen's Japanese consultant teach you how to prepare delectable tofu recipes from appetizer to dessert. Check out the schedule below.

Cooking with Tofu: Sept. 8 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Appetizer Tofu:Tuna Tofu Dip and Tofu Balls, Stuffed Tofu, Tofu Teriyaki, Tofu and Wakame Salad, Tofu Fruit Shake, Tofu Mango Dessert and more. P600.
Meat Processing (no preservative): Sept. 7 (Fri) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Chicken & Pork Tocino, Corned Beef, Native Longanisa, Beef Tapa. Bonus: homemade cold cuts. P700.
Baking with Institutional Mixes: Sept. 8 (Sat) 1:30 -5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road), Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Pretzel,Hotdog on Stick, Mango Samurai, Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. Includes lecture on cost profit analysis. P500.
Catering Business: Sept. 15 (Sat) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Portion Control, Costing, Inventory, Table Layout & Equipment Sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes: Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella and special Gulaman dessert. P1,500.
BBQ Sizzlers: Sept. 21 (Fri) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Different styles of barbecue preparations including marinade and sauces (Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Texas and Vietnamese-style). P600.
Japanese Cooking: Sept. 22 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Miso Soup, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, and 7 different types of sushis. P750.
Restaurant Operations: Sept. 29 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, etc. Proven techniques on profitable service operations with free snacks. P1,500.
Pinoy Bread: Sept. 29 (Sat) 1:30 -5 p.m. Ensaymada, Mongo Loaf, Spanish Bread, Cinnamon Rolls, Pandesal, Pande Coco, Rainbow Bread, Banana Bread, Raisin Bread. P600.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS - ON:

Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: Sept. 11-14 or 25-28 (T-F) 9 a.m. -1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, international standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc., applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500.
Basic Baking: Sept. 12-14 or 26-28 (W-F) 1:30-5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000.
Basic Cake Decoration: Sept. 15 & 22 (Sat) 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P 2,000
Integrated Workshop on Waitering & Bartending: Sept. 15 & 22 (Sat) 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Coverage:. Creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting. Suggested selling techniques, meeting, greeting and seating of guests; Use of magic words; Order taking; Table setting standards (American, Russian and French style); Setting up service station and checkpoint; Serving beverage and entree; Bartending basics; Cocktail mixing and garnish; and Personality Enhancement. P2,000 (free lunch)
Cooking I (Basic Cooking). For Messman, Stewards and Beginners: Sept. 18-21 or Oct. 2-5 (T-F) 1:30-5p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes: Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P 2,200.

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*


Wanna Win
P50,000?
Send us a text message with the words
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"
Play our trivia and get a chance to win a Nokia 3310!
Send to: 23301 Globe
24301 Smart
24301 Talk N Text

NOKIA www.bidshot.com Globe SMART
in cooperation with philstar.com
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1335 SERIES OF 2001

茶長
樓記 Tiong Kee Roast Duck House
AUTHENTIC PEKING ROASTED DUCK

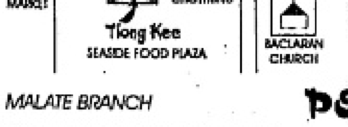
Try our other specialties:
- Roast Duck Asado Rice
- Honey Roasted Barbecued Pork
- Soy Chicken Rice
- Roast Duck Siopao
- Chicken Siomai
- Mixed Asado Rice (Intestines, Lengua, Tito, Asado)

Baclaran & Malate Branch Now Open!

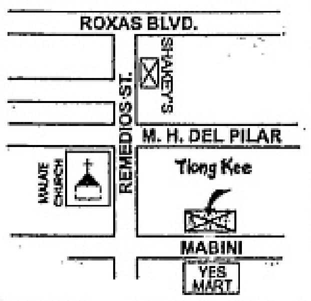
正宗的北京烧鸭
請光臨長記茶樓！

We're located at:

BACLARAN BRANCH

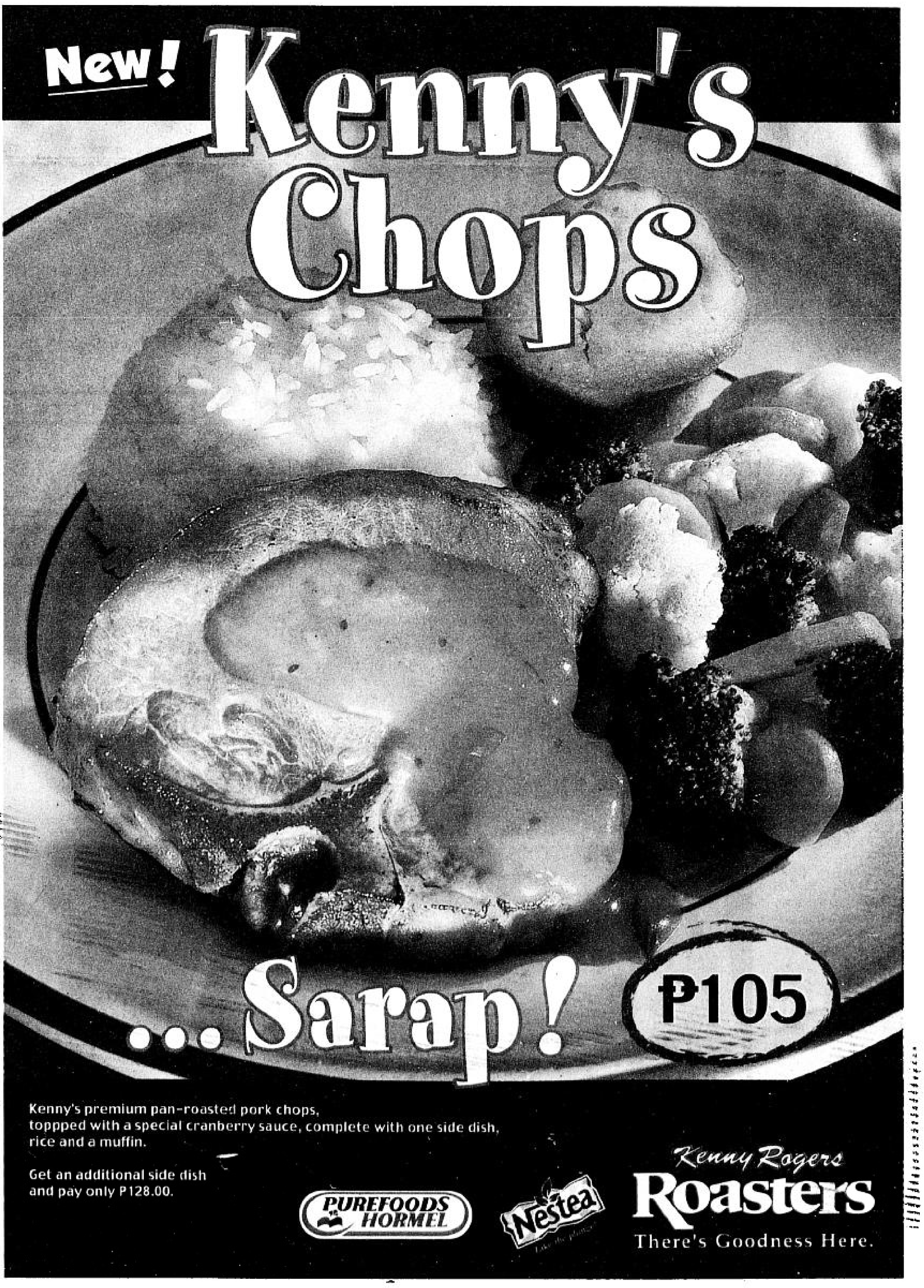


MALATE BRANCH



HONGKONG-STYLE
PEKING ROAST DUCK
Served With Authentic Sweet Plum Sauce

MALATE Branch, 1803 Mabini St., near cor. Remedios Ext., Malate Manila Tel.No 450-12-49
Baclaran Branch, Seaside Food Plaza, (besides Baclaran Church) Tel.No. 851-44-40
Sta. Lucia Branch, Food Island, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta Rizal
Banawe Branch, 834 Banawe Street, corner Del Monte Ave., Quezon City Tel.No: 731-10-23



Kenny's premium pan-roasted pork chops,
toppped with a special cranberry sauce, complete with one side dish, rice and a muffin.

Get an additional side dish and pay only P128.00.

PUREFOODS HORMEL Nestea Kenny Rogers Roasters
There's Goodness Here.

Remembering Vietnamese food

(From page D1)

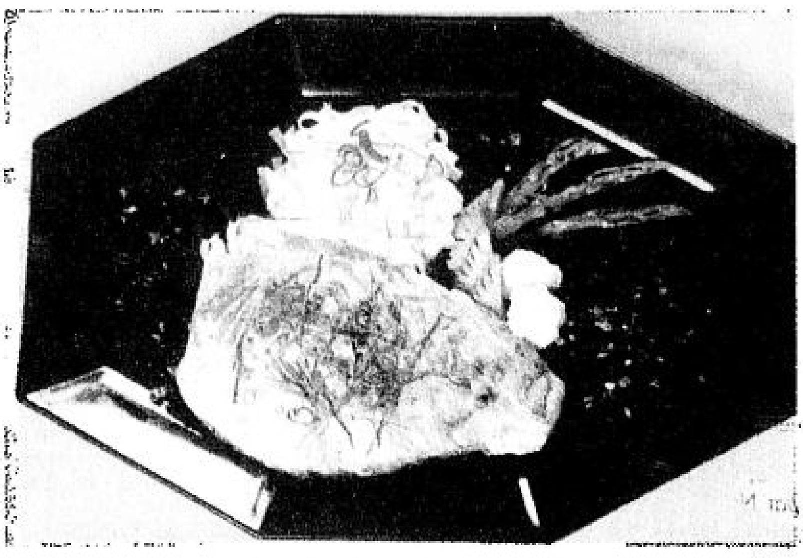
Along with soft noodles and dipping sauces (*nuoc mam*, the Vietnamese *patis*), the sum total is a symphony of flavors and textures, amazingly harmonized by one's tastes, imagination and memory. A symphony orchestra of flavors.

When feeling peaky, some friends and I head for Pho Ba, a chain of Vietnamese restaurants, usually only to have bowls of noodles—with beef, chicken or seafood, and thus be soothed and healed.

A new Vietnamese restaurant opened in April this year at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, called Thien Duong, meaning Paradise (tel. 867-3333, local 3354; open Monday to Sunday for lunch and dinner; 12-2:30 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.). It gleams with polished wood and glass, serves food on black octagonal plates, and is a world away from sidewalk noodle stops.

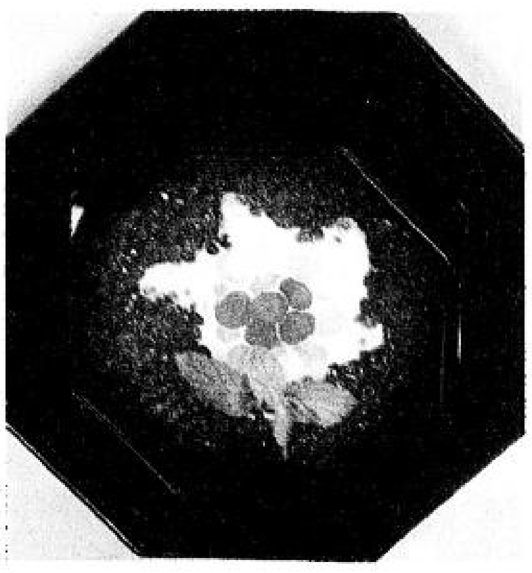
We started with Thien Duong Kha Vi, a plate of appetizers that included tiny spring rolls with chicken, shrimp, pork and transparent vermicelli (*lumpia* wrapped in rice-paper-like Vietnamese wrappers), minced shrimp wrapped around sugarcane sticks, charcoal-grilled pork balls and a cured beef patty wrapped in Good King Henry leaves, which was almost everyone's favorite. One dipped, wrapped, sprinkled, paired as one wished, in happy Asian flexibility.

We all felt soup was a must, and thus encountered Canh Chua, a fisherman's soup with prawns, mussels, fish and mushrooms. It was the urban version of our sidewalk soups—fusion, hotel PR Malou Rosal pointed out; of course, even a bowl of soup changes from the countryside to a five-star hotel outlet. The other choices were Pho (beef and rice noodles), Mien Ga (chicken and vermicelli noodles) and Bun Gon (rice noodles with shredded pork and steamed sausage).


GRILLED salmon steak with spicy lime sauce

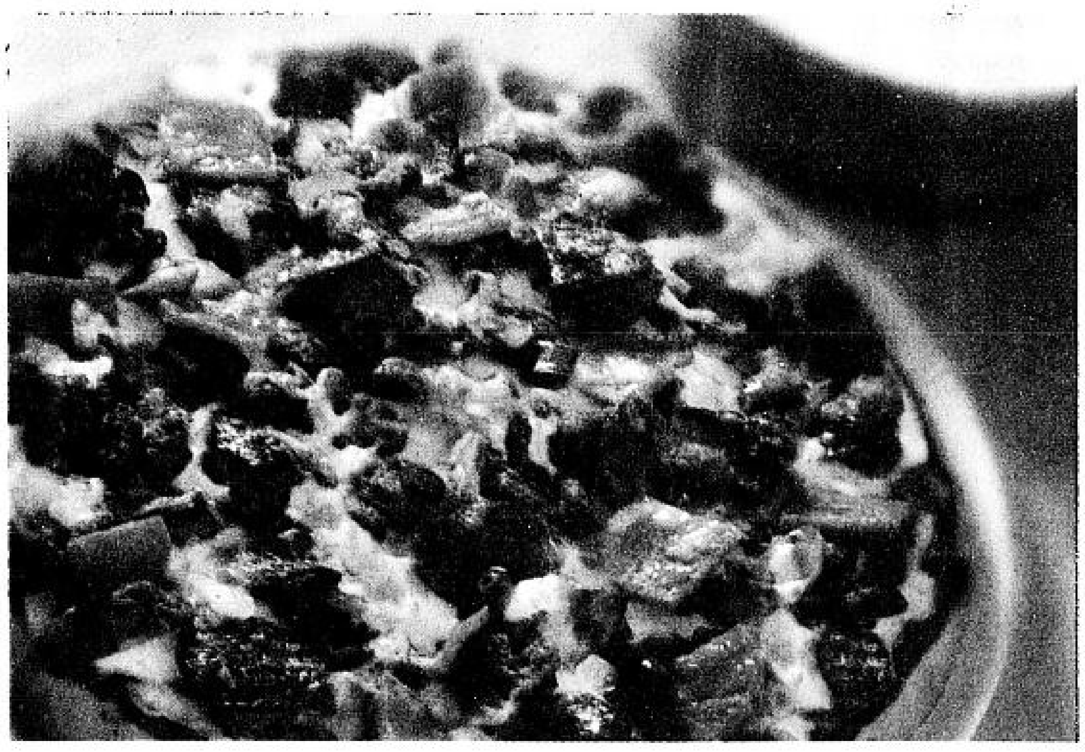
SOLE deep-fried with toasted peanuts and a lemongrass dip

An entrée each that we could all taste and discuss brought to our table: Ca Chien Ka, sole steamed (upon request) with toasted peanuts, served in a boat-like vessel that was the fish skin artistically fried whole. Ca Nuong, grilled salmon steak with a spicy lime sauce—seemingly Western, Asianized by the sauce. The steak lover had Thit Thien Duong, grilled, marinated sirloin with a dipping sauté. Mi Xao Gion, crisp egg noodles shaped into a basket and filled with chicken, ham, prawns, mushrooms and sesame seeds, pleased the noodle fan. And finally Ga Nep, a superior charcoal-grilled chicken served with deep-fried sticky rice. These little rice patties, like bits of *suman*, had also accompanied the appetizers, and we all liked them so well we asked for extras.


SAGO and cantaloupe with coco milk

For dessert, we all dipped into Banh Dua Ca Ra Mon, a coconut flan with caramel, almost identical to Mila Enrique's Flan de Coco, and a version from the Dominican Republic I tasted in a New York restaurant. Some had as well Hat Tran Chau, sweet *sago* with cantaloupe and coconut milk, and Chuoi Va Thomchien Gion, soft banana fritters with vanilla ice cream.

In sum, the Vietnamese food at Thien Duong is worth trying—another step in the continuum from the countryside and roadside, to royal courts and the fine-dining table. It is not the hearty peasant food of the former, but has been acted upon by history (French colonization; the war) and society today, globalization included.



Pizza chain sports new look

GREENWICH recently cooked up two winners: Primo thick-crust pizza and Pearl Cooler drinks. Soon, all its stores will be sporting a younger, revitalized look.

Although a few stores are wearing it now, expect all Greenwich stores to eventually carry its prominent new "G" logo and its bright-hued new look, featuring the colors of brilliant green and vivid rose, to replace its former dark green and red.

The interiors are now brighter and more dynamic. According to Greenwich general manager Raffy de la Rosa, "The consumer business has come to a point when design really matters. People are more concerned with how a store looks and feels. Design is a contributor to ambience, and ambience in turn influences the customers' reception to the place as well as perceptions of product quality."

He adds that the company has also been intensifying the training of its frontline people, service crew, store managers and area managers to make them even more customer- focused.

In product development, the pizza house has come up with Primo, a premium, thick-crust pizza. Primo comes with toppings like Italian sausage and cooked ham, bacon, mushroom, onion, bell pepper and special chiees.

"This premium offering caters to those who look for a more sophisticated combination of toppings," says marketing director Cherry Caluya. "What makes it very tasty and flavorful is that the ingredients are all proprietary to Greenwich; the Italian sausage and pizza sauce has Greenwich's own spice blend."

"Mozzarella gives it that flavor and stretch," she adds.

Moreover, compared to other thick crust pizzas, Primo's thick crust is lighter, not too dense or compact, which enables it to retain that Greenwich crunch.

The store promises more improvements. Advertising manager Abby Velasco says, "The food improvements go with the young, vibrant, fun-loving image we project. The Research and Development staff do not stop thinking of ways to improve our various products."

Lapid Foods
maker of the world famous Lapid's Freshly Popped Chicharon
announces the launch of their new sign logo

The "Rolls Royce" of Chicharon
Lapid's
FRESHLY POPPED
Chicharon
Lapid Foods

and the opening of its new outlet

Lapid's Freshly Popped Chicharon
Lapid's Freshly Popped Chicharon

The first and only chicharon outlet in the Philippines [perhaps in the world] with a drive-thru facility.

Shaw-Acacia Branch
Lapid Foods Bldg. IV
Shaw Blvd. near corner Acacia Lane
Mandaluyong City

50% Discount on Sept. 9, 2001

"We've designed our buildings to reflect the kind of customers that patronize our products".

Jose A. Lapid Jr., CPA-Lawyer,
Master in Entrepreneurship, (AIM),
1998 Agora Awardee for Oustanding
Achievement in Entrepreneurship-Small Scale
(Entrepreneur Magazine, December , 2000)

Office and Outlets Directory

FACTORY & OFFICE
Lapid Foods Bldg. I
957 C. Aguila St., Quiapo, Manila
Tel. Nos. 734-3878, 734-3909, 735-4217
Fax Number 735-4241

S.S. HIGHWAY-PASAY RD. BRANCH
J. Lapid Bldg. III
South Super Highway corner Van Buren
(near cor. Pasay Road [Arnaiz Ave.]), Makati

VITO CRUZ BRANCH
South Super Highway near
corner Vito Cruz, Makati City

WHITE PLAINS BRANCH
Lapid Foods Bldg. II
16 Katipunan Avenue
White Plains, Quezon City

SHAW-ACACIA BRANCH
Lapid Foods Bldg. IV
Shaw Blvd. near corner
Acacia Lane, Mandaluyong City

ROTONDA BRANCH
N. Ramirez Fronting UDMC
(near Espana Rotonda), Quezon City

Francis R. Real of Laguna. Future film director with a Sony Digital Handicam DCR-PC9.
Donna Mae Callejo of Zamboanga City. Capturing a timeless moment with her Sony Cybershot DSC-F505V.
Abraham A. Berlazo of Davao City can now answer along with his favorite quiz show thanks to his Sony Wega 29" TV.
Manny M. Salvania of Lucban, Quezon listens to his favorite band play live in his room with the Sony VX Series Mini Component.
Erik Malaca of Muntinlupa Cit
Framed!
With an Oakley Pen

zed

See what develops when you take a shot.

Kudos to these guys who downloaded and got loaded in Get zed! Get loaded! Continue downloading logos, ringtones and picture messages from zed! You still have a chance at winning great prizes from Sony, Piaggio, Compaq, Oakley, Nintendo and Nike. So download now. It pays to take a shot.

Get zed! Get loaded! exclusive to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers.

For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288. Promo until October 7, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867. Series of 2001.

How to register for the Get zed! Get loaded! promo:
1 Type in keyword JOIN GETZ<NAME>/<ADDRESS>
2 Send to 288.
3 You have now registered.

THREE'S COMPANY. Henrik Yu, Catherine Genabe and Joanna Lim keep up their team work from Kong Hua to the Ateneo de Manila to Bigby's

Making it big

By Mozart A.T. Pastrano
Photos by Val Handumon

A hot, hot café puts Cagayan de Oro on the country's cosmopolitan culinary map

IF you are in Cagayan de Oro City, you must hie off to Bigby's Café and order a Titanic Treat. It's a magic mountain of ice cream scoops—all 40 of them!—with a sinful smattering of chocolate chips, moist chocolate cake, chocolate cookies and whatever fruits are on hand. A glacial treat!

"It's a great way to melt away hot afternoons," says pretty Joanna Lim, one of the three 25-year-olds who run this hot, hot diner.

Hot is the word, indeed, and Bigby's is the place. Who would have known that it would take a tiny diner like this to put Northern Mindanao on the country's cosmopolitan culinary map?

The story goes that Glenda Barreto, the doyenne of the Philippine food scene, hied off to Bigby's and promptly fell in love with the diner's *tijuana quesadillas*, a fresh, light take on the classic Mexican pica-pica. The flour tortilla is deliciously burnt and crunchy and manageably thin—and perks you up with that wicked mishmash of cheese and garlic, which you may spice up with a dash of salsa. Mama mia!

For his part, gourmand and restaurateur Sandy Daza was so enamored by Bigby's Aloha Wedgie Crunch ("crispy tortilla shell topped with mozzarella cheese, ham and pineapple") that he wrote about the restaurant in his Saturday column here in the INQUIRER.

Now, salad foodies will turn green with envy at the freshness of the offering at Bigby's: the harvest of the land crisp and plentiful. The house salad is aptly called Bermuda Triangle Salad, but the one you must try is the Ensalada Fresca, a mix of ripe mangoes, tomatoes, onions, lettuce and beef *tapa*—tossed with naughty, naughty *tuyo* vinaigrette. Pinoy fusion to the max—and in Mindanao at that!

TITANIC TREAT. A glacial treat of 40 ice cream scoops!

And that's not even the entrées yet.

Bounty

Most everyone who goes to Bigby's orders the playfully named Rack-a-Bye-Baby. It's pork ribs glistening in barbecued perfection. Believe me, it's fabulous value-for-money. Others go for the Korean Riblets, a sinful bowl of beef ribs tender with sweet and spicy imagining, which I thoroughly enjoy. There are steaks of all sorts—porterhouse, T-bone and rib-eye—which are bandied to be mad-cow free, since the beef is decidedly local (from Bukidnon, we were told). There, too, are mischievous chicken and seafood experiments, which are highly successful (Indian Seafood Kebobs and Chicken Japayuki, for instance).

May I confess, though, that the entrée which keeps me coming back to Bigby's is the Garoupa Al Fresco. To say that it's "sautéed *lapu-lapu* fillet with pesto in a pool of onion jus" is to miss the point, although it is that exactly—drowned in a crunchy sea of shredded shoestring potato. Because you see, it is more than that. This simple dish with nuanced flavors swims into your palate as a celebration of joy, of bounty, of good taste, of fine dining, of creative exploration, of companionable bonding: a coming together of spirited intentions.

The best way to wash off such a feast is to order the bottomless, especially brewed house iced tea. It's a thirst-quencher whose honey-slaking goodness lingers long after the last bite, or burp.

"We made sure our food gives diners a wonderful high," says sultry Catherine Genabe, who, together with Henrik Yu, completes the young triumvirate running Bigby's.

Cathy, Henrik (better known as Doy) and Ann were classmates at Kong Hua. Even then, Cathy and Ann would bake and sell banana cake, butter cake and carrot cake in school. At the end of the day, they would eat the cakes that were not sold.

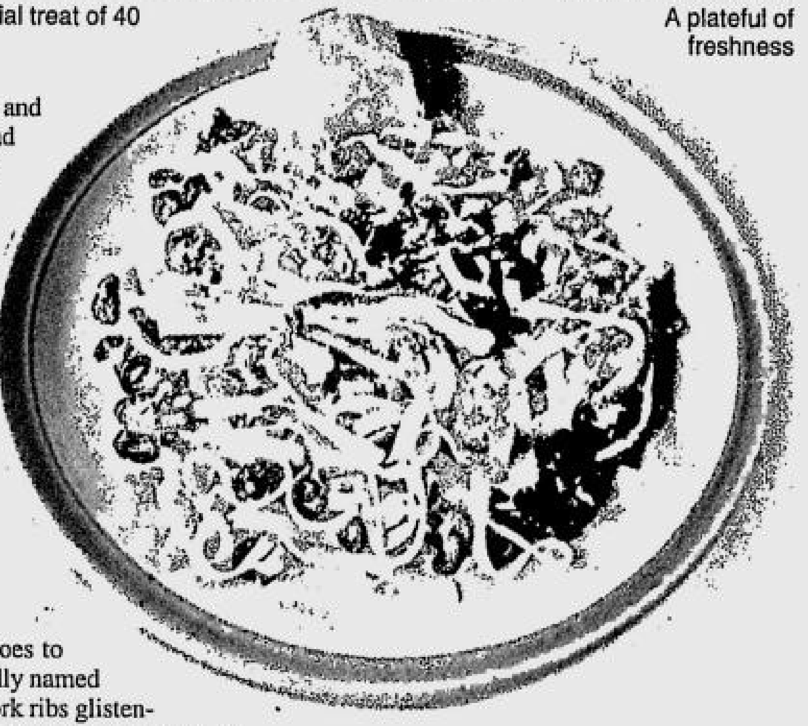
Ann studied business management and psychology under the interdisciplinary studies program at the Ateneo de Manila University. Doy snatched up a degree in economics there, too, while Cathy pursued dentistry studies.

"But I found myself enrolling at the Center for Culinary Arts across the road from the Ateneo, and that has made all the difference," Cathy lets on.

Ann enrolled there, too. And the three realized that there was only one way to go: Open their own restaurant.

"It had to be hip—a cool hangout for young folks like us," Cathy recalls.

Grins Doy, "The taste of the food had to be outstanding, and the servings had to be impressive."



PASTA MARISCOS. A plateful of freshness

Says Ann, "We thought the place should be unique, with a character all its own, that will draw people to come back again and again."

Luck was on their side. They found an abandoned warehouse back in Cagayan de Oro, at the heart of Divisoria, the city's happening district.

Cozy and comfy

It took the three some time to agree on a name, though, but they eventually settled on Bigby's: "It sounds familiar, but you somehow can't quite figure out where you've heard that name before," says Cathy.

It somehow jives with the theme they've chosen for their diner: travel.

Bigby's interiors is wood panels and clear glass and woodsy tables and chairs, very cozy and comfy, very relaxed. On one wall, Doy displays his father's sword collection; on another, the bell collection of his mother (which used to grace their dining room). Doy and Ann tack on still another wall interesting plates to talk about. There are *wayang kulit* puppets from Indonesia, framed *en toto*, and the stamp collection of the three friends. On yet another wall is Doy's jacket when he was a Rotary youth exchange student together with Ann. (He went to Brazil, she went to Oregon.) The jacket showcases the various pins they collected during that one-year blitz.

The most significant visual in the diner, though, is a colorful mural showing the Eiffel tower. Says Ann, "It announces a certain worldly persuasion."

It seemed a foolhardy thing to do, open a world-class diner outside the metropolitan élan of the country's capital, but the three were nonplussed. "We didn't think of failure," Cathy points out.

The trick, they agreed early on, was to give people a good deal. Meaning: tasty food, big servings, cozy ambience, efficient service—and affordable prices. But for the rib-eye steak (P205), everything on the menu is below P200. And the famous quesadillas is only P85 per order!

The three also decided on playing distinct roles: Ann is in charge of the kitchen, Cathy takes care of the dining area and Doy handles the business.

Of course, Ann and Cathy continually create new dishes. Ann's Midnight Dream Cake is my favorite moist chocolate cake ever, while Cathy's Cheesecake is sooo dreamily perfect.

The two have a willing victim in Doy as taste-tester. "It's so simple," Ann smiles. "If he says he doesn't like what we cook, *inaaway namin siya.*"

When they soaked fresh-from-the-pan banana fritters in toffee sauce and topped it with vanilla ice cream, for instance, Doy grimaced after a bite and declared it was a dud. Ann and Cathy resented that response and went on to introduce Banana Fanna in their dessert menu. It has since become their sweetest bestseller.

Such a playful, creative team-up makes for the big success that is Bigby's.

Bigby's is at 89 Archbishop Hayes St., Cagayan de Oro City, with tel. no. (088) 857-5511 or (08822) 721071.

E-mail the author at mozpas@yahoo.com

Viva Mexico!
Celebrate "Fiesta Mexicana!" with us
and you might end up
in the land of tequila for free!

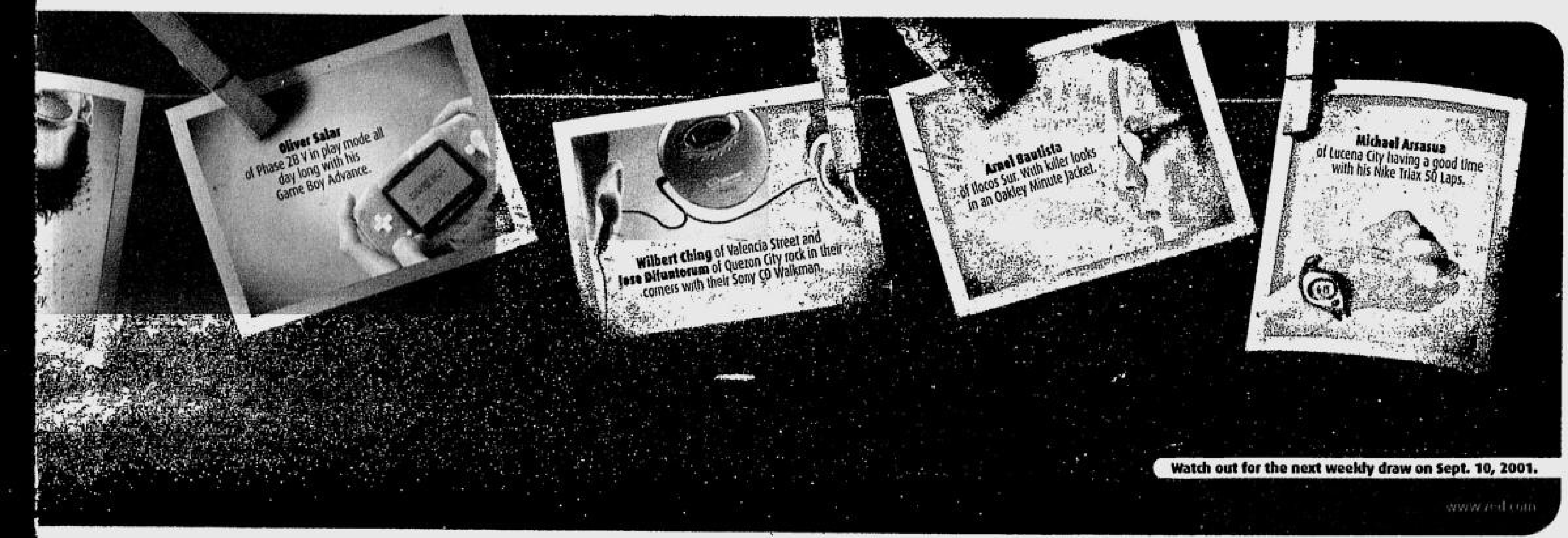
Arriba! Arriba! Your rare chance to taste
authentic Mexican cuisine happens from September 6-16
at Hyatt's Cafe al Fresco with guest chef Elina Benitez.
It's a total experience coupled with exhibits and live folk dancing
by Grupo Folklorico Sinaloense de Difocur.
And if you happen to be one of the lucky diners, experience Mexico for real
with Princess Cruises' 7-day Mexican Riviera holiday from
Los Angeles to the ports of Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta!
Viva Mexico! All yours only from Hyatt!

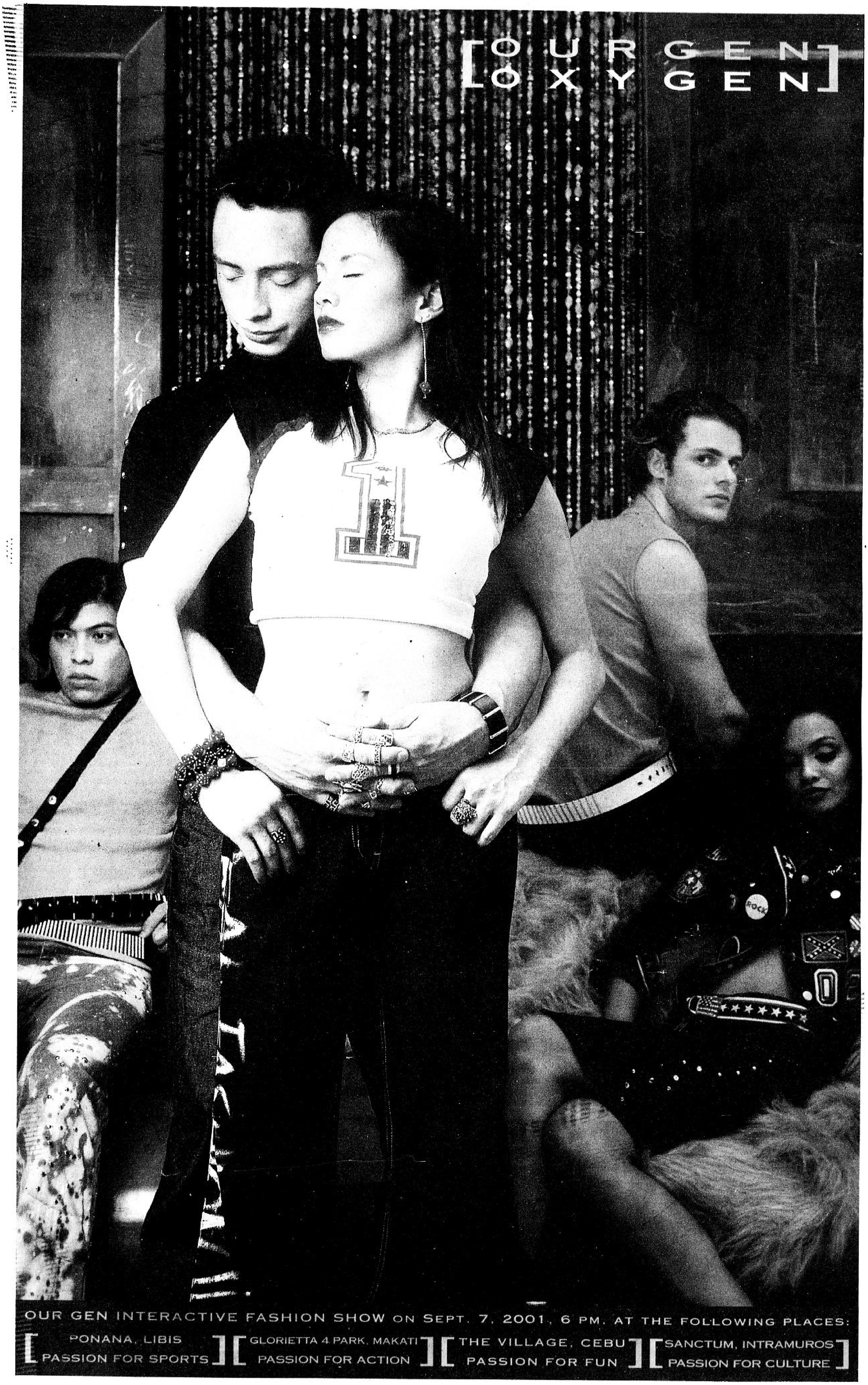
HYATT REGENCY MANILA

SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES SRE PRINCESS CHINA AIRLINES MEXICANA.

See posters and flyers for details. PER DTI-NCR Permit # AI-0484 Series of 2001

2702 ROXAS BOULEVARD, PASAY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES PHONE: (63)(2)833-1234 FAX: (63)(2)833-5913 E-MAIL: bizcentre@hyatt.com.ph


Oliver Salar of Phase 2B V in play mode all day long with his Game Boy Advance.
Wilbert Ching of Valencia Street and Jose Difuntorum of Quezon City rock in their corners with their Sony CD Walkman.
Arnel Bautista of Ilocos Sur. With killer looks in an Oakley Minute Jacket.
Michael Arsasua of Lucena City having a good time with his Nike Triax 50 Laps.
Watch out for the next weekly draw on Sept. 10, 2001.
www.zed.com



OUR GEN INTERACTIVE FASHION SHOW ON SEPT. 7, 2001, 6 PM. AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

[PONANA, LIBIS
PASSION FOR SPORTS]

[GLORIETTA 4 PARK, MAKATI
PASSION FOR ACTION]

[THE VILLAGE, CEBU
PASSION FOR FUN]

[SANCTUM, INTRAMUROS
PASSION FOR CULTURE]